



# BAY VIEW Historian

VOLUME 2012, NO. 4

AUGUST 2012

## Northern Border Walk Takes Place Saturday, August 4

BY RON WINKLER

This ninth and final walk in the 2012 series of Bay View walking tours covers the area north of Lincoln Avenue. This section of Bay View has been part of the city of Milwaukee since 1857, yet it attached itself to Bay View sometime after 1887 when Bay View joined the city of Milwaukee.

The walk begins in the residential area north of Lincoln Avenue and east of Kinnickinnic Avenue. The second section is centered on the industrial area north of Bay Street. The final section is along Kinnickinnic Avenue with its historic buildings. Most of the

Northern Border Walk is unfamiliar to even Bay View residents.

Registration will be at 9:00am at Stone Creek Coffee, 2266 South Kinnickinnic Avenue (corner of Kinnickinnic, Lincoln and Howell). The cost is \$5.00 for Bay View Historical Society members and \$7.00 for non-members.

The walk will be led by Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch. Greg's walk will be approximately two hours. Ron's walk for history majors will be longer. Both walks will stop at Hamburger Mary's on Kinnickinnic

and Bay Streets for attendees to purchase refreshments and use the restrooms. For more information contact Ron Winkler at [rawinkler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rawinkler@sbcglobal.net).

### Here are some of the highlights:

**Allis Street/Punk Alley** The alley between Allis Street and Mound Street was known as "Punk Alley" in the 1970s. Gangs ruled this area which was populated with liquor stores, dingy bars and boarded up homes. The gang activity involved drugs and starting fires in garages. Bill Doyle and the police department worked to eliminate the problem, in part by tearing down garages that were being used as hangouts by the gangs.

**Brunks Lane** was named during the 1870s for William Brunk, a carpenter who lived on the street. There were about fifteen houses on the street which extended to Kinnickinnic Avenue until 1960 when Ward Street was extended east of Kinnickinnic Avenue to Allis Street. Ward Street was named for Milwaukee Iron Company founder Eber Brock Ward. The city turned this area into a nameless mini-park

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### SAVE THE DATE!

## BEULAH BRINTON AWARDS DINNER A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012

SOUTH SHORE PARK PAVILION

2900 S. SHORE DRIVE, MILWAUKEE 53207

6:00 PM SOCIAL TIME/CASH BAR

6:30 PM DINNER AND PROGRAM

### HONORING AWARD WINNERS



**Sr. Edna Lonergan**  
*President, St. Ann Center  
for Intergenerational Care*



**John Gurda**  
*Local historian, writer,  
lecturer and columnist*

Individual Tickets are \$60 per person

Invitations will be mailed or call (414) 744-5674 if to reserve your space.

*Proceeds from this event will support preservation of the historic Beulah Brinton House*



Members of the Milwaukee Model T Ford Club represented the Bay View Historical Society at the Humboldt Park Forth of July Parade with four of their antique vehicles.

Photo credit: Greg Wernisch

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\$20 Individual/\$17 Seniors (Age 65+)

\$30 Household/\$25 Senior Household

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Bay View Historical Society

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Bay View, WI 53207

[www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org)

The Bay View Historical Society is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations and in-kind gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

BY NANCY TAWNEY

As you read various stories in this issue of the *Historian*, you will see that the Brinton House is getting much use for many kinds of events. One of the Bay View Historical Society's long-range goals is to have the Brinton House become a well-known tourist destination.

In a June 25 letter to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Randy Bryant of the Coalition for Historic Preservation wrote: "Noted historic preservation economist Donovan Rypkema recently made a visit to Milwaukee to speak at a series of events celebrating our city's rich architectural heritage. He gave one over-arching message: Milwaukee must make historic preservation a key component of its sustainable economic development plan. Preservation is intrinsic to

economic vitality... a city such as Milwaukee can use its historic built environment as a tourism and marketing tool."

The Beulah Brinton House, which was purchased by the Bay View Historical Society seven years ago, is an excellent example of one of Milwaukee's architectural gems that is being preserved.

The Society still holds a substantial mortgage on the house and is continually working to generate funds to pay the debt. All proceeds from the Beulah Brinton Awards Dinner that will be held on Thursday, October 4 will be used to pay down the mortgage on the house. We hope that you'll attend this new event and support the Society's celebration of community.

## Alderman Zielinski Hosts Meetings at Brinton House

Alderman Tony Zielinski has recently hosted meetings at the Brinton house for local residents on current issues such as public safety and traffic concerns. The Brinton House is an excellent community venue for these gatherings. Beulah Brinton opened the home to the community over a century ago; meetings such as these continue the spirit of Mrs. Brinton's desire to bring people together for the betterment of all.

## Milwaukee Observatory Returns

The Milwaukee Observatory, a joint project with Discovery World and Bay View High School, will return this August for its third season on the grounds of the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street.

This project is part of Discovery World's "The Art and Archeology of Me" program. In this program, students explore archeological methods and tools, research techniques, media production, design and visual art. This public art installation is the culmination of their work and will be open and accessible for viewing daily during the month of August. Each Saturday - August 4, 11, 18, 25 - students will be on hand from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to record stories, scan old photographs and historical documents and document artifacts. We encourage everyone to bring historic items and share recollections of the past to be recorded and preserved for the future.

## MORE MUSIC IN NOVEMBER

On Sunday, November 25 at 2:00 pm, Lil' Rev and Larry Penn will return to the Brinton House for another Sunday afternoon performance.

They packed the Brinton House when they gave a concert in November - plan to be one of the happy people to enjoy their music this year.

## Brinton Descendants Celebrate

On Thursday, June 21, a pre-wedding dinner was held at the Brinton House for Abagael Lola Dean and Michael Tucker. Michael is the great-great-great-grandson of Beulah and Warren Brinton.

When they became engaged, the young couple requested permission to use the Brinton House for this event so that they could connect with family roots for this special occasion.

Guests played croquet and badminton on the house grounds and enjoyed a catered dinner. Michael's aunt, Ellen Tucker, a great-great granddaughter of the Brintons, assisted the young couple with preparations for this evening.

Abagael Dean and Michael Tucker toss a ribbon bouquet from the second floor porch of the Brinton House. *Photo credit: Nathaniel Davauer*



## Gardening Workshop Held at Brinton House

The Bay View Garden and Yard Society hosted its first Gardening Workshop on Saturday, June 16 at 1:00 pm on the grounds of the Beulah Brinton House. This event was open to the public and attendees had the opportunity to learn about urban landscaping in small spaces, soil enhancements, bed preparation and staggered bloom season.

Sharon Morrissey, Master Gardener from the UW Milwaukee Extension, facilitated this free workshop for all interested gardening enthusiasts, beginners and gardening groupies. Refreshments and handouts were provided.

Workshop participants convened on the front porch of the Brinton House. *Photo credit: Stephanie Harling*

## Music in the Brinton House

On Monday, May 21, five Bavarian musicians filled the Beulah Brinton House with the sound of music.

There was standing room only as many music lovers came to hear the performance.

Two harps, a clarinet, a tuba and a steirische harmonika (accordion) completed the ensemble and two of the performers also sang Bavarian songs.

Bavarian musicians performed in the Brinton House living room in May. *Photo Credit: Susan Ballje*





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The brick street and lone home on Brunks Lane.

(named Zillman Park in 1978). Today there is one house on Brunks Lane which is the only brick street in Bay View.

## Mound Street School/Winchester Village

The Queen Anne style 12th District School was built in 1897 between Mound Street and Winchester Street at 2148 South Mound Street. The school was later renamed Mound Street School. Mound Street got its name from the hill in this area that was leveled long ago; not from an Indian Mound as many have claimed. The school closed in 1979 and was converted in 1983 to the senior housing Winchester Village, addressed at 2147 South Winchester.



Mound Street School, 2148 S. Mound Street, now Winchester Village, 2147 S. Winchester Street.

## Elias Stollenwerk Home, 2246 S. Aldrich Street

Elias Stollenwerk was the senior member of Elias Stollenwerk and Company, contractors and builders. He built a Queen Anne home in 1890 as his home and office. He started his business in 1883 and employed his brother John. They built St. Augustine School (1888) and Church (1908), which was the Stollenwerk Family's parish.

**Wrought Washer**, 2100 S. Bay Street, manufactures washers and stamped metal parts. The company was founded in 1887 by Fred Doepke as the Nut and Washer Manufacturing Company in a small building on the northeast corner of Reynolds (Lenox Street), Wilcox and Bay Street. Doepke chose this location because of its proximity to the Illinois Steel Company, his source of steel.

In 1901, Doepke constructed the first of what would eventually be seven modern buildings. Wrought Washer is the world's largest manufacturer of standard flat washers and special washers with this factory in Bay View and warehouses throughout the United States.



Penney Flats row house, 380-96 E. Becher Street, a rare form of housing in Bay View.

**The Penney Flats** row house was built in 1894 at 380-96 E. Becher Street by streetcar operator Lorenzo Seymer for \$9,000. The story is that he either saved or embezzled his pennies to build these apartments. Row houses are rare in Milwaukee. This short segment of Becher Street was originally named Allen Street.

The Classical Revival building at 2244-46 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue was originally owned by plumber J.B. Julien. It was constructed in 1903 and in 1905 became **Theatre Comique**, Bay View's first movie house and possibly Milwaukee's first permanent motion picture theater according to movie historian Larry Widen. It operated as a nickelodeon until 1909. Over the years, the building served as an outlet for dry goods and men's furnishings. It has been a liquor store since 1934.

**Boulevard Theater, 2248-50-52 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue** In 1986, Mark Bucher rented half of this building and founded the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theater. At the time, the building was vacant and its previous tenant had been an adult bookstore. This area was quite depressed with seedy bars, drug houses and prostitution; things were so bad that even the George Webb restaurant (today's Café Lulu) across the street moved out. He eventually purchased the entire building and encouraged others to move into the area.

**Café Lulu, 2261-63-65 S. Howell Avenue** In September 2001, Café Lulu was opened by Cameryne Roberts and Sarah Jonas. Jonas had previously worked with Mark Bucher who encouraged the women to consider this location. Today the café has become a Bay View landmark. Café Lulu and Boulevard Theater started the upswing of this area.

**The Strnad Building** at 2254-64 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue was constructed in 1911 as a department store. There is a plaque on the second level that reads "Strnad Bldg." Over the years the building has housed a Woolworth's Department Store, Salvation Army Thrift Store and Schwartz Book Shop. Today it houses Riviera Maya Restaurant, Toppers Pizza and Babe's Ice Cream.

## INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE ONLINE?

### Ancestry.com

enables you to access US census, birth and military records.

**Archives.gov/genealogy** provides access to census and military records as well as immigration and naturalization records.

### Usgenweb.org

aids in conducting research organized by state.

# Historic Round-up

Milwaukee County Historical Society's *I'm New Here: Introducing the Research Library*, 910 N. Old World Third Street, Milwaukee  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 10:00 – 11:00 pm**

The Research Library contains an amazing array of sources such as naturalization records, photographs, divorce records, tax records and many more. All of these sources can help you research your family history, study for a term paper, look into the history of your house, business, organization or neighborhood, or just learn more about Milwaukee's rich past and many cultures. Learn tips on how to locate documents, use catalogs, request materials and purchase copies of historic papers and photos. Admission is \$6.00 for non-members and members are free. Reservations required. For more information, contact Amanda Koehler, (414) 273-7487.

Old World Wisconsin's *Laura Ingalls Wilder Days: Bonnets, Britches, Tractors and Hitches*, W372S9727 Hwy 67, Eagle  
**AUG 4, 2012 - AUG 5, 2012, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm SATURDAY,  
 11:00 am – 5:00 pm SUNDAY**

The whole family will enjoy activities straight from the pages of the "Little House" books. Experience draft horse power, see a steam threshing machine and the work done by turn-of-the-20th-century gasoline engines. Try your hand at making rope or watch the SeatWeavers' Guild demonstrate chair caning and chair seat weaving. Join the look-alike pageant, dressed up as Mary, Laura, Carrie, Grace, Almanzo or naughty Willie and Nellie. Visitors can also help with the chores and games Laura and her family experienced. For more information, visit [oldworldwisconsin.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.org).

Old World Wisconsin's *After-Hours Barn Dance*, W372S9727 Hwy 67, Eagle  
**AUG 4, 2012, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Enjoy an engaging evening of live music and dancing — no prior knowledge required. Snacks and drinks available for purchase Reservations are recommended. Adult admission is \$10, children age 5 to 17 are \$7. Children under 5 are free. For more information, visit [oldworldwisconsin.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.org).

Wade House's *Breakfast at the Inn*, W7824 Center Street, Greenbush  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 8:00 – 11:00 am**

Help prepare an 1860s breakfast in the Wade House kitchens, working at the open hearth or period cookstove, dine in the inn's dining room and take in an 1860s vintage baseball game. Reservations required. \$35 per person. For more information call (920) 526-3271 or visit [historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org](http://historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org)

Wade House's *Baseball Sunday*, W7824 Center Street, Greenbush  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1:30 pm**

Cheer on the Greenbush Dead Citys vintage baseball team as they defend their home turf against another historic team, playing by the rules of 1860. Game time is 1:30 pm. Following the game, fans will be invited to join team members in a rousing pick-up game. Game included in cost of general admission to Wade House (game-only tickets \$5 per person). Adults \$11; children \$5.50; students and seniors \$9.25; family \$30. Horse-drawn transportation on the site included in ticket cost. For more information call (920) 526-3271 or visit [historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org](http://historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org)

## DINING ROOM DONATION DELIGHTS

The Bay View Historical Society has received the donation of an antique oak table to replace our mended circa 1970 JC Penney formica-topped kitchen table. A set of Victorian caned side chairs was donated along with the table.

The donor, Sandra Whitaker-Organek, said the set was 100 years old when she purchased it from an antique dealer 26 years ago. Local historian Anna Passante confirms that the set is likely from the 1880's, and the table may be even older.

The Bay View Historical Society sincerely appreciates the donation and has acknowledged it with a donor letter. The donor of the antique set has purchased the Ethan-Allen dining room set which was donated to the Society in October.

## BEST EVER YARD SALE!!

Our annual Yard Sale held May 19 at the Beulah Brinton House turned out to be the best so far. The weather was beautiful and the event was a great success. Over \$4,000 was raised for the society. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers for their help before and during the event. We could not have done it without them. We also greatly appreciate all the wonderful items that were donated. Special thanks to John and Penny Manke for doing the hot dog stand!

Co-Chairs,  
Donna Pogliano & Annie Hahn

## See Your Name in Print!

Write an article about Bay View history or of historical interest to BVHS members and we may run it in *The Historian*! Word documents are ideal and articles must be 1,000 words or less — photographs are a plus!

Contact Jenn Kresse  
 at [jrkresse@gmail.com](mailto:jrkresse@gmail.com)  
 or 414-531-0225  
 to find out more!



# Calendar 2012

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 :**

Historic Walking Tour – 9:00 am  
Milwaukee Observatory  
Beulah Brinton House  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 11:**

Milwaukee Observatory  
Beulah Brinton House  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 18:**

Milwaukee Observatory  
Beulah Brinton House  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 18:**

Beulah Brinton House Open to the Public  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 25:**

Milwaukee Observatory  
Beulah Brinton House  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:**

Beulah Brinton House Open to the Public  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 :**

Beulah Brinton Awards Dinner  
South Shore Park Pavilion 6:00 pm

## Upcoming Board Meetings:

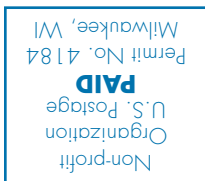
- Monday, August 13, 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, September 10, 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, October , 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House

*Board meetings may be subject to change.*

SIX

ENCOURAGING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BY PRESERVING, CELEBRATING AND SHARING BAY VIEW'S RICH HERITAGE.

Return Service Requested



Bay View Historical Society  
2590 SOUTH SUPERIOR STREET  
BAY VIEW, WI 53207

