



BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2020, NO. 4

www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2020



1912 Signature Quilt Donated to BVHS

BY KATHY MULVEY

Jean Larsen, longtime Bay View resident and member of Bay View United Methodist Church, has given to the historical society a spectacular large signature quilt. The quilt was made in 1912 as a fundraiser for the church by women of the Ladies Aid Society of Trinity M.E. Church (the present-day Bay View United Methodist Church, where Beulah Brinton was a member.)

Ms. Larsen said that the quilt was purchased by Attorney Clarence Bullock. Mr. Bullock gave the quilt to his sisters who lived at 2977 S. Superior St. Gert Bullock was the last of the Bullock sisters to live here and she moved out of the house in the 1950s. At this time, Gert gave the quilt to Ms. Larsen who has kept it in fine condition through all the years since.

The quilt features 62 squares, each with a woman's name in the center (the maker of the square?) and 10 names radiating out like rays around the center. Were these family names, neighbors, other Church members? We do not yet know. Each name is embroidered in red thread on a white background. Smaller squares and triangles between the circles and around the edges feature two or more additional names. All told, there are more than 1,400 signatures in the quilt.

Some of the names in the quilt are familiar, such as Bullock, Steiner, Burdock and Saveland. But all of the names are probably those of people who walked the streets of Bay View more than a century ago.

So much history is contained in this gift, and the Archives Committee is working to make sense of it all. If you might have information that would help, please contact the committee at kfmulvey90@gmail.com or 414-744-0408. As soon as we have worked out how to properly protect and display the quilt, and when it is once again safe for people to come together, we will have a grand time showing it to you all.





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Bay View Historical Society is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status operating for educational purposes.

The Bay View Historian is published four times a year by The Bay View Historical Society.

BVHS President's Message

As the weather turns cold, and the leaves are falling, we are facing a new season. We stay warm in our homes and in our hearts looking forward to holiday cheer. This year, holiday gatherings are going to be different. My brother and his wife cannot travel from Kansas so we will meet online by "Zooming." While I am sad, they cannot visit, I am reassured that we will gather together again, when it's safer. This means keeping those you love close in spirit, and 6 feet away with a mask in person. Not forever, just for this year, so we can celebrate together again next year. This is an important time of the year to take stock and count our blessings, and recall those who matter in our lives and thank them for how they touch our hearts.

The Bay View Historical Society has touched countless lives. I know for my family the research being done and preserved in the archive has helped with my mother's maternal genealogy. It's given me a window into the past and helped me paint a picture of my great-grandmother Minna's life, and what growing up in Bay View was like as an immigrant. All of the hardships she endured and victories she shared with her family. Within the research we've discovered an immense family that came to Milwaukee before Minna's parents brought her and her brother Carl here. My family feels so much bigger now, and I cannot wait to continue the research and find relatives I didn't know I had.

If you have not already received the annual appeal letter please be on the lookout for it. To everyone who has already given, thank you! If you have not yet given, please consider what the society brings to your life and our community as a whole. We have a beautiful historic home to maintain, and preservation is expensive. Your financial support helps with every aspect of the work we do. Follow us on Facebook to receive the latest updates on virtual events and offerings.

Thank you!

Hannah Hazelberg

Making A Gift In Your Will

The Bay View Historical Society's mission is to maintain a sense of community by preserving, celebrating and sharing Bay View's rich heritage.

This is being done now and with your help it can continue for years to come through a gift to the Bay View Historical Society in your will.

Your will is a statement of your values and reflects that which is important in your life. If the Bay View Historical Society is an organization that you treasure and you want to help its work continue, please consider providing for a gift to the Society in your will.

**For further information, contact
Nancy Tawney at**

(414) 744-5674; ntawney@aol.com



The Singing Santa Online And More This Christmas!

That right jolly old elf, **"The Singing Santa"** will do three livestreamed Christmas programs on **Facebook Live** at **11am on Saturday December 5th, 12th, and 19th** for kids and parents at home.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/singingsanta> to join the fun!

Santa will present familiar and family songs of the season for all ages played on a variety of instruments including guitar, concertina, and handmade banjo and dulcimer. Pre-recorded videos of The Singing Santa can be viewed anytime on YouTube by searching "David HB Drake videos" and going to "Playlists" - Singing Santa.

Santa's helper, folksinger David HB Drake, has been celebrating Christmas with Milwaukee audiences through annual concerts for forty years at the Mitchell Park Domes and as Gnorman the Gnome in Cedarburg for over 20 years. This year, due to COVID, his Christmas music will be available online with both YouTube recordings and Facebook live streaming.

David's *"Let there be Light"* program for adults features lesser-known folk songs of Christmas from around the world, classic carols, and original songs of the season.

David will be performing a live virtual Christmas concert for the Lake County Folk Club on **Sunday December 20th at 7pm**. To attend, go to: <https://thelakecountyfolkclub.org> for a link.

A pre-recorded video of the *"Let there be Light"* concert can be found by searching "David HB Drake videos" and going to "Playlists" - Christmas. This concert was recorded in 2018 at the Mitchell Manor chapel and is made available especially for Activities Directors at Senior facilities.

Many of these songs are found on David's CD, *"Let there be Light"*, which is available at www.davidhbdrake.com/CD/Light.htm

David's videos are free for viewing by the public anytime through Organic Arts, a Milwaukee based arts non-profit. For more information and to donate to Organic Arts to continue bringing the arts to Milwaukee, go to: www.performingartsmilwaukee.com



Information updates will be posted on <https://www.facebook.com/OrganicArts>





Passing, Seen

BILL O'BRIEN

Without an Easter egg hunt or Chill on the Hill or a Backyard Barbecue, and especially without Fourth of July fireworks, Humboldt Park has had its quietest summer and fall in many a year. Gemütlichkeit in the biergarten done, the election day flurry settled.

At the moment, trees sighing as they shed the last of their gold and red leaves make the steadiest sound. One listens wistfully for performances of the past, the much-missed Global Union, or a lingering note of the "Phantom Nightingale of the Silver Screen," who played the park in August 1940.

Diana Gaylen was born Elsie Lee Wilson in Butte, Montana, and settled on an operatic career at age 5. She moved to Italy in her teens to study voice and languages. As Diana or Liana Gaylen she performed in Milan for 3 years, and returned to the U.S. as motion pictures became "talkies." A voice test led to "ghost singing" for stars of the day, including Norma Talmadge (New York Nights, 1929), Greta Garbo (Romance, 1930), and Olivia de Havilland (Anthony Adverse, 1936). She also sang parts in Disney's Silly Symphonies, then dubbed them into French, German, and Italian for overseas distribution.

The lyric soprano toured widely in operatic and theatrical roles, originating Mitzi in Sigmund Romberg's Blossom Time. Her Humboldt Park concert occurred in a break from a national tour of Rodgers and Hart's I Married an Angel.



Gaylen as Mitzi, 1936

Diana's husband was Raymond Earle Mitchell, a Milwaukee-born composer, songwriter, and impresario who had also worked in Hollywood. The couple was based here in the 1940s and 1950s. Diana taught voice and piano and concertized, regularly appearing at the Temple of Music in Washington Park, while Raymond led local choral groups, promoted concerts, and directed the Milwaukee City Opera. They later moved to Washington State.

The Bay View Observer announced the August 25th Humboldt Park concert and the availability of 20, 30, and 50-cent tickets, and later reported that Miss Gaylen had been accompanied by arranger Howard Oliver Stein and the Federal Symphony Orchestra, a Works Progress Administration group. With current limitations on library resources, a review of the program is proving elusive, so we can only imagine what mix of operatic and popular songs filled the air that evening, while we await next year's high notes.



A sign of our times, at Classic Slice.

History of the August Walks, Part Two

BY RON WINKLER

As you know, the 2020 Bay View Historical Society's annual August Walk, originally scheduled for Saturday, August 1st, was cancelled. We are planning to hold next year's walk on Saturday, August 7th. These walks are led by Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch.

Although there was no walk this year, you can go on your own walk using the society's five walking tour brochures that are available on the society's website. These are the South Shore Walk, Iron Company Walk, KK Link, Midtown Walk, and Way Down South Walk. Soon, four more brochures will be available, bringing the total to nine. This two-part series describes all nine walks. Part one appeared in the Fall 2020 *Historian* and described the first four of the five walks listed above. This installment will describe the remaining five walks.

The first Bay View Society Walk was held on August 25, 1979 as part of Bay View's centennial celebration. According to a picture published

in the September 5, 1979 issue of the old "Bay Viewer," more than 200 people participated in that walk, led by Ray Bethke, Walking Tour Committee Chairman. Each participant received a brochure titled, "Walk Through Historic Bay View."

In that brochure, Bethke wrote, "I thank the many friends whose encouraging commentary contributed to the final product: among them Norene and Jim Veitch, Hildegard and Norm Hundt, Vera and Les Markussen, Floyd Boyce, Daisy Estes Tucker, and John Utzat."

That first walk was such a success that the August Walk became an annual event led by Ray Bethke with assistance from John Utzat. Those walks ended in 1992 due to Bethke's health. Fast forward ten years to 2003 when the next August walk was held. In that year, Ron Winkler revived the tradition with the South Shore Walk.

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History of the August Walks Continued



Your friendly tour guides: Alice & Ron Winkler, Greg & Laurie Wernisch

Winkler's South Shore Walk was modeled after the South Shore Walk in the 1987 brochure "Walking Tours of Bay View," six walking tours within the boundaries of the original Village of Bay View, compiled by Ray Bethke and John Utzat. That brochure commemorated the one-hundredth anniversary of when the Village of Bay View joined the City of Milwaukee. One side of the brochure listed the six walking tours and sites, but no information about the sites. The reverse side was a facsimile 1887 map of Bay View upon which those sites were located. (See accompanying map on page 7)

Starting with "The South Shore Walk," Winkler located and researched the sites for those six walks. The Bay View Historical Society created a high-quality, glossy brochure for "The South Shore Walk."

Each year Winkler researched another of those six walks and introduced a new brochure, which was presented at the August Walk. When it came time for brochure number six in 2008, the society was in the midst of a money crunch due to its purchase of the Beulah Brinton House in 2005. Production of that brochure was put on hold, but the walk was still held.

Winkler added three additional walks to include neighborhoods outside of the original Village of Bay View in order to cover the area of what today is considered Bay View. Since 2008, the society has grown in stature and the house is paid off so that it can afford to print the remaining brochures will be printed soon.

Following the revival of the August Walk in 2003, we've offered two separate walks each year. Ron Winkler is the tour guide for history majors, while the second walk has been led first by John Sternkopf, followed by Todd Smith, and currently Greg Wernisch

Way Down South Walk 2007

The Way Down South Walk covers the southwest corner of the original Village of Bay View. This was the last area of Bay View to be developed and it contains the newest homes – some built as late as the mid-1950s – and a variety of architectural styles.

This largely residential area has a few businesses scattered throughout and emphasizes recreation and leisure. It features three park sites: the former Union Park was a private park and popular picnic spot typical of the beer gardens frequented by Milwaukeeans before free public parks existed; Humboldt Park is one of the five original public parks that the City of Milwaukee established in 1890; and Sijan Field, owned by Milwaukee Public Schools, is a playground converted from a former brickyard and dump.

The borders of the Way Down South Walk are Russell Avenue on the north, Oklahoma Avenue on the south, Howell Avenue on the west, and railroad tracks/Lake Parkway on the east.

Western Border Walk (2008)

Dr. Enoch Chase, original owner of the area encompassed by the Western Border Walk (Sixth Street on the west, Howell Avenue on the east, Lincoln Avenue on the north, and Russell Avenue on the south) had a farm, brickyard and bottle making company. Eventually Chase subdivided his land, laid out and named the streets and built homes. Most of Chase's farm west of the Kinnickinnic River became Baran Park, with Chase Avenue as its western border.

As more businesses moved in, this area became the cradle for many world-renowned companies such as Milwaukee Valve, Filer & Stowell, Vilter Manufacturing and Jerome B. Meyer and Sons, the only company still in Bay View. The Keller Winery on Deer Place operated until 1943; its well-preserved buildings (including the cellar dug into the hillside) and some original grapevines are highlights of the walk.

St. Augustine Catholic Church on Howell Avenue has been a pillar of Bay View since 1887. Other buildings and homes featured on the tour range in age from before the church into the 1920s.

Fernwood & Sauerkraut Hill (2010)

The entire area that we now refer to as Bay View, was previously part of the Town of Lake, created in 1838. The Village of Bay View was formed in 1879 and when Bay View joined the city of Milwaukee in 1887, the city's southern border was extended to Oklahoma Avenue.

Across Oklahoma Avenue in the Town of Lake, James Douglas owned a real estate development whose boundaries were between Oklahoma Avenue and Morgan Avenue from Kinnickinnic Avenue east to the St. Francis Seminary. He named this heavily wooded area Fernwood. South of Oklahoma Avenue and west of Kinnickinnic Avenue is Sauerkraut Hill, which took its name from its large German population.

Fernwood became part of Milwaukee in 1924 through the efforts of Bay View's Socialist Alderman Paul Gauer. Fernwood's residents, paying high taxes to the Town of Lake and getting little in return, formed the Fernwood Annexation Club. They wanted the same amenities enjoyed by Bay Viewites such as sidewalks, sewers, garbage collection, streetlights and a fireproof school. Sauerkraut Hill became part of Milwaukee in 1927.

The housing stock in this area has a high percentage of bungalows, but there are duplexes, Victorians, Tudors and some modern structures. When these homes were built, they had a new feature: a bathroom. Highlights of the area include the Russell Bennett's Gothic house (1855), Messiah Lutheran Church, Fernwood Montessori School, and the home of Alderman Erwin Zillman.

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When The Violets Bloom

S.K. JANSKY

In researching local history for her new book, award winning author, S.K. Jansky came upon the story of the Bay View Rolling Mills and the tragedy of 1886. She found the account so moving she used the event as the starting point of her new novel, *When the Violets Bloom*. With a twist of fiction, she gives a vivid account of the Bay View Massacre:

It was a good half-mile to the mill, and of course, another trolley was nowhere in sight as he emerged out onto the street. He started out toward the mill at a steady pace. Edward had said it was where the stronghold was, and things were bound to turn violent. The trolley, in which he was sure he had spotted Theodore, was nowhere to be seen, but that would be its route. He continued down Russel Avenue and picked up his pace. He could hear the shouting crowds as he neared Superior Avenue. A stiff breeze was blowing in off Lake Michigan and he pulled his coat around him. It was nearly nine o'clock as he neared the Rolling Mill. Things were chaotic by then. He started to scan the crowds of the striking men. They were shouting, "Eight Hours! Eight Hours!" and "Join us or go home!"

He could see no women and no children only men. He thought to himself, perhaps, he was mistaken about seeing Theodore on the trolley.

Suddenly, the throng of strikers began moving toward the mill's entrance. It was no longer single men; the crowd had merged into one overwhelming entity and Walter suddenly found himself being pushed and swept into the horde. He managed to squirm between them and found his way to the edge of the mass, jumping up onto the back of a wagon at the edge of the path he returned to scanning the swarm. The mass of strikers was about two hundred yards from the entrance of the mill. From his new vantage point looking out over the crowd to the entrance where the National Guard all stood, guns in hand, he could hear the captain shouting, "Halt! Halt!" The mob approached the mill and faced the militia who were ready to fire.

Just then, Walter spotted him, the small boy amongst the pack. He was being tossed back and forth among the men. From that distance, he couldn't be certain it was Theodore, but the mop of brown hair was a good indication. The crowd was swelling and pushing on toward the entrance. Walter tried to call out to him, but it was of no use. He doubted the strikers could even hear the captain demanding them to halt.

Holding tight to the side of the wagon, his foot in midair, Walter was just about to leap from his vantage point to try and reach Theodore when he heard the captain's command.

"Fire!"

The resonance of gunfire instantly stunned the crowd and there was complete silence for a second or two. Then the front line scattered as the bullets flew into the pack. He still had his eyes glued to the mop of brown hair when the second volley of gunshots rang through the air, and in an instant, the boy disappeared. Walter vaulted from the wagon his sights set on where he had last seen the boy. The entity had once again become single men as they all ran

in different directions, scrambling away from the guard who were still holding tightly to their firearms and barricading the entrance of the mill. Suddenly, Walter became aware of feathers in the air; they floated down among the strikers, like soft, fluffy snowflakes. There were hundreds perhaps thousands of feathers. They were everywhere and Walter wondered for just an instant where they had come from, until he spotted a few men wearing pillows tied around their chests, like makeshift shields. With the first shots that created the chaos, the men had pulled off the pillows as they ran for their lives. The ticking had ripped open, releasing cascades of feathers being tossed among the crowd.

Somehow Walter managed to reach the boy who was lying face down in the mud. Shielding him from the dispersing mob, Walter turned him face up knowing it would be Theodore. He scooped him into his arms and ran blindly back toward his plant, as he yelled to unhearing ears, "Help, please someone help me!"

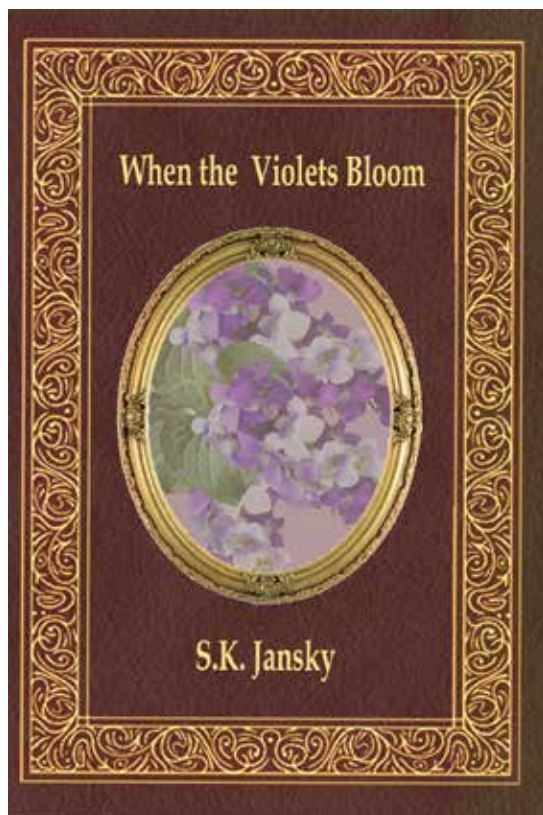
About a quarter of the way back he spotted a trolley on route. He ran out into the street forcing the trolley to stop. The driver began to object until he noticed the blood dripping from Walter's hands. Walter climbed aboard

clinging tightly to the lifeless body of Theodore.

The trolley driver stared at them for a brief moment before he finally stuttered, "St. Mary's hospital, it's the closest."

Walter shook his head silently before he uttered, "Just take us home."

The book also contains many other interesting facts and snippets of the late 1800's and the Milwaukee area, along with a captivating story of love and loss. The book is the sequel to *The Problem with Miracles*, the first-place winner in the general fiction category of the Christian Indie Awards for 2019. Both books can be found on Amazon and other online outlets





History of the August Walks Continued

Southwestern Border (2011)

The Southwestern Border is another area that became part of Bay View as, over the years more Town of Lake land was added to the city of Milwaukee. The area covered by this tour is bounded by Oklahoma Avenue on the north, Morgan Avenue on the south (Bay View's southern border), the Lake Parkway (Wisconsin Highway 794) on the east and 6th Street on the west (Bay View's western border). The tour also includes the area north of Oklahoma Avenue to Russell Avenue between Humboldt Park and 6th Street.

Bitter battles were fought between the Town of Lake and Bay View's alderman Paul Gauer to annex this area. Town residents wanted to join Milwaukee to obtain the amenities enjoyed by their neighbors in Bay View, such as paved streets, schools, sewers, and water. When these areas were annexed piecemeal between 1922 and 1929, they became part of Milwaukee, but wanted to be part of Bay View, due to Bay View's strong sense of identity.

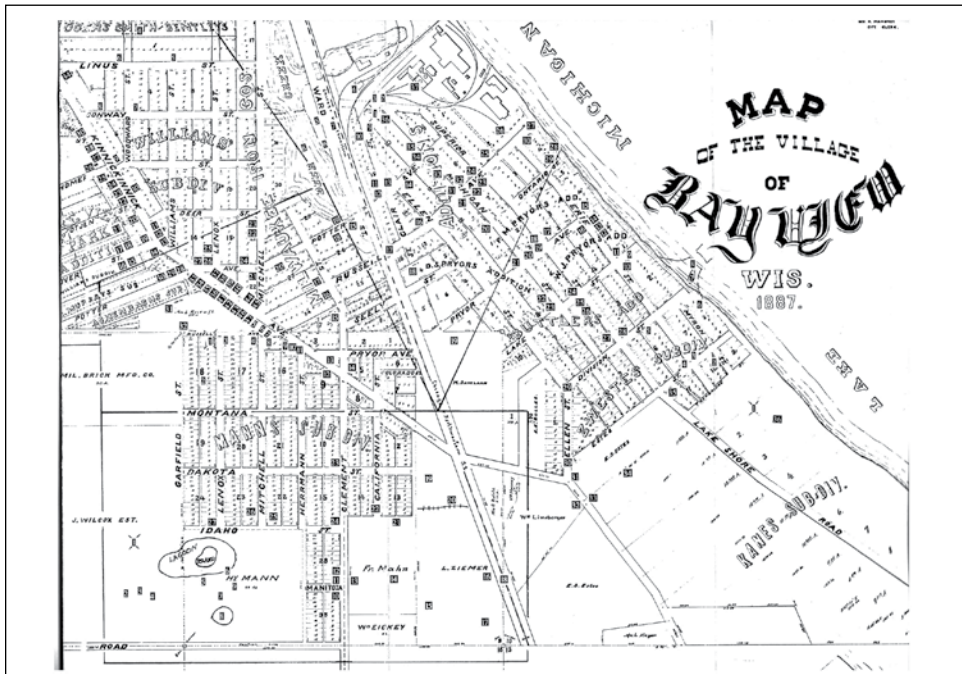
The Southwestern Border has some old farmhouses dating to the late 19th century, but most homes were built after 1925. The majority are duplexes, Bungalows and Tudor revival homes along with a generous sprinkling of Colonial revival and Mediterranean homes.

There are a number of churches (Unity Lutheran, Chapel of the Cross Lutheran, United Church of Christ, St. Luke's Episcopal), schools (Humboldt Park and Parkside) and businesses (Caterpillar, Prasser/Klecza Funeral Home, Nash/American Motors/Chrysler) on this tour.

Northern Border Walk (2012)

This ninth and final walk in the 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 for some reason, it attached itself to Bay View sometime after Bay View joined the city of Milwaukee in 1887.

The walk begins in the residential area north of Lincoln Avenue and east of Kinnickinnic Avenue. Highlights of the walk include Mound Street School (now Winchester Village senior housing) and Elias Stollenwerk's Queen Anne home (1890). The second section of the walk 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 residents of Bay View.



Facsimile map of Bay View in 1887. On the right side, note Bay View's original streets as laid out by Eber Brock Ward parallel to Lake Michigan. In the central section, note the standard north/south, east/west grid. Note also how streets near the upper left (Homer Otjen, Potter) are angled southwest/northeast. Kinnickinnic Avenue (spelled Kinnickinnick on the map) winds its way from upper left to the bottom of the map near the right side. This is why Bay View is a challenge for even MapQuest.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

All yearly membership terms run from January 1 thru December 31. Any new memberships will be current through the end of the calendar year (one year plus pro-rated months). Members receive our newsletter, *The Historian*, with interesting articles and the latest information on all our events as well as discounts at a variety of Bay View merchants. Thanks for supporting the programs of the Bay View Historical Society!

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Dues

- ☐ Individual \$20
- ☐ Household \$30
- ☐ Senior (65 or older) \$17
- ☐ Senior Household \$25
- ☐ Nonprofit/Small Business \$30
- ☐ Corporate \$55
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Enclosed is my check in the amount of
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- ☐ Please contact me! I'd like to volunteer for a project or committee.
- ☐ Please save a tree and send *The Historian* to the email address above.

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Upcoming Events

The Singing Santa via Facebook Live

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/singingsanta> to join the fun!
More information on page 3.

Saturday • December 5
11:00am via Facebook Live

Saturday • December 12
11:00am via Facebook Live

Saturday • December 19
11:00am via Facebook Live



Where in *(Historical)* Bay View?

BY RON WINKLER

Do you recognize this Bay View landmark? Look for the answer in the next issue of *The Historian*.



Answer to last issue's quiz (Fall 2020):

Answer to last issue's quiz (Fall 2020): Elijah Estes built this Victorian Italianate home in 1881 for his oldest son, Ren. The home, located across from South Shore Park at 2136 E. Estes Street is known as the Estes House. It was designated as the Bay View Historical Society's seventh landmark on June 4, 1989. Estes Street and Wentworth Avenue in Bay View were named by the Estes family.

