



# BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2021, NO. 1

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

SPRING 2021



This 1876 map of Milwaukee County shows the seven townships of Milwaukee County in relation to the City of Milwaukee in the right center. Granville is the township in the northwest (upper-left) corner. Note that the City of Milwaukee is between the Town of Milwaukee and the Town of Lake. Note also, the spelling of Milwaukee as "Milwaukee".

## The Town of Granville PART ONE

BY RON WINKLER

The Town of Granville was one of seven townships established within Milwaukee County between 1838 and 1841. Townships or towns are political and geographical subdivisions of a county. By definition, a township is 36 square miles.

Milwaukee County's four western townships, from north to south were: Granville, Wauwatosa, Greenfield, and Franklin. The three eastern townships, from north to south, were: Milwaukee, Lake, and Oak Creek. Over the years, these 230 square miles of wilderness were transformed, first to farmland, and finally into the metropolitan Milwaukee area that we know today with its nineteen municipalities.

Granville Township was in the northwest corner of Milwaukee County. Its borders were Ozaukee County on the north (today's County Line Road), Waukesha County on the west (today's 124th St.), Wauwatosa Township on the south (today's Hampton Avenue), and Milwaukee Township on the east (today's Range Line Road/27th Street).

With the exceptions of Lake and Granville, municipalities exist today that have the names of each of the original towns. That is because sections of those towns incorporated to preserve their independence and to prevent becoming annexed by another municipality. Why is the name Granville not among Milwaukee County's nineteen municipalities? This series will answer that question.

Milwaukee County was established in 1834 as part of Michigan territory. Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837 and Wisconsin was granted statehood in 1848. Milwaukee County is bordered by Washington and Ozaukee Counties on the north, Racine County on the south, Waukesha County on the west, and Lake Michigan on the east.

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Bay View Historical Society  
2590 S. Superior Street, Bay View, WI 53207  
www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Annual Appeal and renewed their membership for 2021. It helps us immensely to be able to count on your support and enthusiasm for the work we do. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to continue providing quality programs, preserve our local history and beautiful historic landmark.

Not being able to visit in person right now has made us all feel distanced, but very soon you will be able to 'walk' the halls of the Brinton House once again. Our wonderful tour guide Bill O'Brien, Casey Edwinston of VR Tours, and I are very excited to show everyone the incredible virtual tour of the Beulah Brinton House we filmed in mid-January. The virtual tour will be available to everyone soon, so don't forget to follow us on Facebook so you don't miss it. We are also preparing educational materials to accompany the tour. If you are a teacher or have a child that would be interested in exploring Beulah's story in March as part of Woman's History Month, please email [bayviewhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bayviewhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

We have been busy developing our events and programs for 2021. Our virtual events will include a virtual beer tasting with a kit available to purchase, a series of yoga classes, a collaborative lecture with the Maritime History Museum, a lecture on Jones Island, musical events, and many more lectures on Bay View's rich history. I am most excited for our Virtual Book Club series. Three impressive titles on local history for a deep discount as part of the Book Club Bundle. You can find the package on our website shop. First, we will explore Ron Winkler's "Bay View" in May, then we move on to "Kinnickinnic Avenue" by Lisa Ann Jacobsen in August, and we end in November reading Ron Winkler's "Town of Lake." Don't miss out on the opportunity to read along with us and contribute to the conversation.

Health, peace, and joy to everyone in the New Year!

Hannah Hazelberg

## A Visitor at the Brinton House

The word meme (rhymes with "seem") is used to refer to an amusing or interesting item, such as a picture or video, that is spread widely online especially through social media.

A photograph of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders that was taken on the U.S. Capitol steps at the Presidential Inauguration ceremony on January 20, 2021 has become a meme. He is seated in a folding chair with his arms and legs crossed, wearing a thick jacket and wool mittens. This image of him has been transposed to show him in many places around the world, including the Beulah Brinton House.

Be sure to greet the Senator the next time you pass by the house.







## BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Financial Statement 2020

Assets	12/31/19	12/31/20
Checking	\$6,399.83	\$3,545.47
Internet	\$312.27	\$1,321.82
Credit Card		
Money Mkt	\$119,115.28	\$206,457.32
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<b>\$125,827.38</b>	<b>\$211,324.61</b>

### Liabilities

None \$ —

### Direct Public Support

Donations at House	\$782.00
Annual Appeal	\$8,468.00
Other Public Support	\$312.00
Walk	\$130.00
Membership Dues	\$1,173.00
Interest Income-Bank	\$138.07
Rent	\$912.00
House Events	\$120.70
Music Event Income	\$261.00
	<b>\$12,296.77</b>

### Memorials, Legacies, Bequests

Bequests-Grants Received	\$1,043.00
Special Bequest	\$100,000.00
Other Revenue	\$1,173.00
	<b>\$102,216.00</b>

**Total Revenue \$114,512.77**

### Expense

Bank Charges	\$176.66
Community Events	\$533.49
Fund Raising Annual Dinner	(no dinner)
Insurance	\$2,627.00
Printing & Publications	\$2,416.65
Restoration - Renovation	\$28,693.63
Routine Maintenance	\$1,942.25
Office Supplies	\$841.00
Utilities	\$3,089.00

**Total Expense \$40,319.68**

## Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

Please look at your Bay View Historian mailing label to see when your membership will expire.

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
- ☐ Also enclosed is a tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Bay View Historical Society**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

Send your Membership Renewal to:

**The Bay View Historical Society**

Attn: Membership

2590 S. Superior Street

Bay View, WI 53207

## Leave A Lasting Legacy

Leaving a legacy is handing down what we value most. When preparing your will or estate plan, please consider remembering the Bay View Historical Society as part of your legacy. Doing so will ensure that the Society can continue its mission to encourage a sense of community by preserving, celebrating and sharing Bay View's rich heritage.

For more information, please contact Nancy Tawney, 414.744.5674; ntawney@aol.com





## Granville Continued

### Granville is Established

Granville's earliest land sale was in 1838 and 1839. At the time, not all of the land was sold due to a large portion that was kept out of the sale for Byron Kilbourn's Rock River Canal project. That barrier was finally removed in 1849 after Kilbourn's ill-fated venture collapsed.

Granville was settled by pioneers who came from such diverse areas as Germany, Scotland, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and New York. When Granville was formally organized, an influential group of about ten settlers requested that the township be named Granville, for their former home, Granville, New York, which was named for John Carteret, Earl of Granville (1690-1763), who owned land in North Carolina.

Townships were established whenever a region was opened for settlement. The pioneers who moved in, by necessity, became subsistence farmers. They adopted town government to manage their farm and rural government on a local scale. Town government is the oldest form of rule in the United States, established in 1636 in Providence, Rhode Island. Although towns are unincorporated, they provide services such as fire and police protection, road and bridge maintenance, snow plowing, grass mowing, collecting property taxes, providing a polling place for elections, passing and enforcing ordinances, and issuing building permits. Today's "town hall meeting" is derived from town government where residents meet at least once a year with their elected officials to voice concerns.



Granville's first recorded town meeting took place in 1842. Officers were elected and fees were set for town services. At the time, settlement was sparse, there being only 225 inhabitants according to the 1840 census.

In the 1840s, Milwaukee County's wilderness began rapid conversion to farmland. By 1860 two-thirds of Milwaukee County was owned by farmers. However, these rural populations were small because most people preferred to live in cities due to the slowness of travel and communications outside cities.

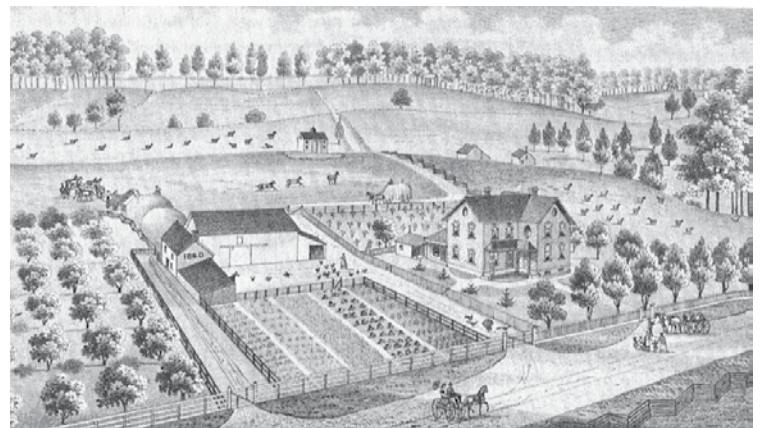
### Schwartzburg

Over time, as roads improved with faster travel and communications, settlements developed in rural areas. They began as trading centers at crossroads or where major roads intersected railroads. Craftsmen then moved in to service the area and a post office might be added. Granville's only municipality was Schwartzburg, an unincorporated farm community in the town's

southeastern corner. It evolved at the junction of what today is Teutonia and Villard Avenues, at the intersection of two railroad lines.

Schwartzburg, with its own post office, was a combination of farming, railroading, and industry. The largest business was the American Bicycle Company, which employed about one thousand workers before the advent of the automobile. Other industries included Greenbaum Tannery and Wisconsin Bridge and Iron.

Despite the existence of Schwartzburg, Granville's residents were engaged primarily in agriculture. By 1876 they boasted 867 horses, 1,894 cattle, 1,643 sheep, and 1,374 swine. Grain production that year was just as impressive with 3,204 acres devoted to wheat, one and a half times more than any other town in the county. Acreage for the other four cereals were: 1,525 acres for oats, 1,290 acres for corn, 1,290 acres for barley, and 154 acres for rye. The acreage devoted to these five grains amounted to one-third of the township's land area. That trend would continue into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Sketch from 1876 Atlas of Milwaukee County" of Farm Residence of George W. Pilgrim.

Granville's agricultural dominance ran counter to Milwaukee's initial attraction for settlers, which had been its potential as the site for a city. The area, at the confluence of three rivers, had the best harbor on the west shore of Lake Michigan.

But Granville's geography was irresistible as described in the 1876 Milwaukee County Atlas. "Granville Township is a beautifully rolling, and generally very fertile part of the county." It continued, "...it is doubtful whether there is another so large a tract of land of equal value for agricultural purposes." There was an abundance of water. The atlas continues, "The Milwaukee River passes through the northeast corner of the town, and flowing south only a little way from the town line, with its small tributaries, furnishes good drainage for the eastern

*continued page 5*





## Granville Continued

half of the township, while the north branch of the Menomonee River (today's Little Menomonee River) with small adjuncts (tributaries) effectually drains the western part of the town.

## House of Correction

Milwaukee's original House of Correction was built in 1866 on Windlake Avenue in Milwaukee on a site that today is occupied by Hayes Bilingual School (971 W. Windlake Avenue). In 1917, the House of Correction moved to a 400-acre site in the Town of Granville, on Silver Spring Avenue, across the street from McGovern Park, between 43rd and 55th Streets. Its northern border was the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad tracks, which are two blocks south of Mill Road. Slicing through the property diagonally from southeast to northwest, were railroad tracks from the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad.



Milwaukee's House of Correction was on W. Silver Spring Ave. between 1917 and 1945 across from McGovern Park.

Many of the inmates became ranch hands as this was a prison farm. During World War II, the U.S. Army acquired the prison to house prisoners of war. After the war, it was used as a military prison. Meanwhile, the House of Correction moved its work farm to Franklin.

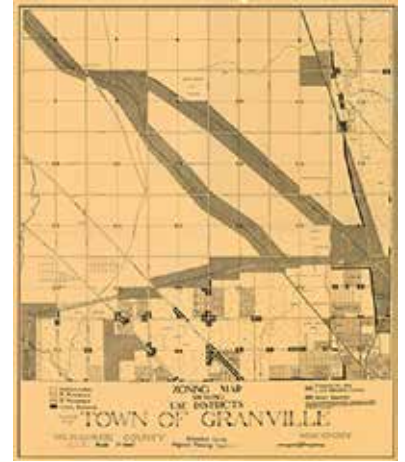
Today, the former army prison site has lost most of its military presence. The 127 acres west of the railroad tracks is an Army Reserve Center. Across the tracks to the east is Havenwoods, Wisconsin's only urban state forest, established in 1980. It boasts six miles of hiking trails that traverse grasslands, woods, and wetlands that were once part of the House of Correction's prison farm. Havenwoods is a rare example of returning an area back to its natural state. Although Granville still has large tracts of undeveloped land, more is lost each year.

Some of Granville's rural past can be uncovered in its names. The neighborhood east of Havenwoods is known today as Thurston Woods. Its tree-lined streets is a reminder of the forest that covered Granville before settlement. As we saw

previously, the trees were cleared for farming, although some were retained for maple syrup or for wind blocks.

Thurston Woods was once covered with fields of flowers and greenhouses. When real estate developer Arthur Wenz platted his subdivision, he called the unnamed road, one half-mile north of Silver Spring Avenue, Florist Avenue.

Raspberries also were abundant just east of Havenwoods. However, they all disappeared in 1950 to ease the housing shortage for World War II veterans. The City of Milwaukee constructed a housing project containing 391 units within 76 houses. The project was named Berryland. Today, Berryland offers affordable housing in the parklike setting of Thurston Woods.



**End of Part One. Look for Part Two, "The Annexation Wars" in the next issue of The Historian.**

Zoning Map of Granville in 1940. Note the lack of development. Schwartzburg is in the lower right corner.



Join our virtual Book Club! We will be reading three local titles throughout the year. Ron Winkler's "Bay View," Lisa Ann Jacobsen's "Kinnickinnic Avenue," and Ron Winkler's "Town of Lake." Book club bundles are available on the website ([www.BayViewHistoricalSociety.com/Shop](http://www.BayViewHistoricalSociety.com/Shop)) for a deep discount of only \$45! Original retail price is \$66!

Already own the books but want to join the conversation? Sign-up for the discussions in our shop, \$5 per discussion, or \$10 for all three.

Meeting details will be shared with participants pending purchase and discussion sessions will be recorded for those that might not be able to attend at the specified day/time.

Don't miss out on the conversation and an opportunity to support the Bay View Historical Society!



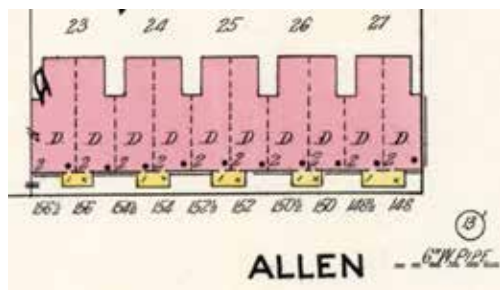
## Passing, Seen

BY BILL O'BRIEN

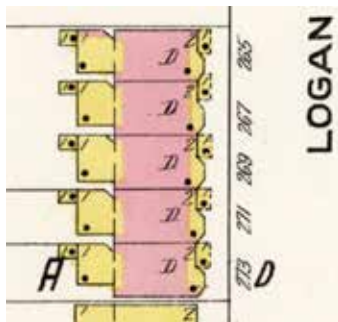
Bay View has pairs and trios of puddlers' cottages from the village's early years, plenty of nearly identical duplexes, and a few recent tear-downs succeeded by enormities. Every other form of tall or tiny residence, save one, appears repeatedly. Common on the East Coast and rare in the Midwest, there are but two 19th century rowhouses in the neighborhood.



Both were built in 1894, one in the city's 12th Precinct, the other south of Lincoln Avenue in the 17th. The ten units of 380-394 East Becher were originally designated as 148-156 Allen Street, paired with half-numbered neighbors. Built in brick (pink in the fire insurance map), it has a tall decorative cornice and diapered panels above each of the porches shielding its five double doorways.



The five units at 2553-2565 South Logan Avenue were originally numbered 265-273. They were built of brick with bayed wooden facades and rear kitchen wings, the latter coded in yellow. The original face is covered with cement-fiber panels (fiber = asbestos) and its porches and pillars heavily coated in stucco. Original tracery remains in some center front windows, with muntins or glazing bars forming lancet arches and framing tall hexagonal panes.



Who were the early residents of these two buildings? The 1900 Federal census gives us a ready overview. On Allen Street, there were 33 members of families from Wisconsin, England, Canada, New York, Massachusetts, and Norway. The male heads of households were a switchman for the Chicago & Northwestern, machinists, a conductor and motorman for the street railway, a collection agent, a carpenter, and an engineer. Widowed Mary Seeley ran a boarding house.

The 32 Logan residents of 1900 were members of families from Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, New York, and England. The heads of household, all men, worked as a laborer, a public schoolteacher, a scrapyard foreman, a "worker in iron rolling mills," and a brass worker.

By 1910 Allen Street was packed with 62 members of completely different families from Wisconsin, Germany, Pennsylvania,



Ohio, Sweden, and Michigan. Its male heads of household worked as a millwright, a streetcar motorman, a sailor on a steam freighter, stonecutters, a steamfitter, a paper-hanger, a shoemaker, and a traveling salesman. Elisabeth Gock cared for her six children while working as a tannery wash lady.

There were only 21 residents on Logan in 1910, with four new families from Wisconsin, England, Michigan, and New York, headed by a steelworks engineer, a machine works engineer and machinist, and a steelworks machinist. Laurin Woodward's family still lived in the middle flat at 269 (today's 2559). The scrapyard foreman of 1900 was now a steelworks superintendent; he had not moved away, but moved up.

How curious our occupations will seem when details of the 2020 census are available to the genealogists of 2092. "Grandpa, what did headhunters do, and were there really people able to manage networks?"





## Historical Society Gifted with Charmaine Denoyer Memorabilia

BY KATHY MULVEY

Thousands of Bay View residents have experienced the influence of Charmaine Denoyer. A graduate of Bay View High School herself, Denoyer taught music there from the late 1970s into the 1990s. She directed the school's spring plays and annual musical performances. She established the Bay View Players and invited any resident of the community to try out. She involved people as actors, singers, dancers, crew members, choreographers, sound engineers, prop builders, curtain raisers, cleaners, recorders and anything else that needed to be done.

Charmaine Denoyer is quietly retired now. But her sister, Joyce Plewa-Richards, recently gave the Bay View Historical Society a treasure trove of memorabilia from Denoyer's productions. It includes collages of pictures of cast and crew from 11 productions; recordings of four musicals; posters from 14 Bay View High School productions and 10 Bay View Players shows. There are large, painted and framed depictions of dramatic scenes. One surprise is a delightfully decorated scrapbook from "The Secret Garden" with scene-by-scene stage directions.

We know that many Bay Viewites remember their experiences with Charmaine Denoyer, and the Archives Committee will put together an exhibit to refresh those memories – and to introduce new people to her influence.



## Tell Your Story in the *Bay View Historian*: Request for Submissions

Do you have a story to tell from your childhood relating to Bay View? Do you have any Bay View history topics that you would like to explore...photos that you'd like to share? Now's your chance! The Bay View Historical Society welcomes members, residents and friends to submit articles and photos for the *Bay View Historian*.

Articles should be submitted in text or word format no more than approximately 1000 words. Exceptions will be made if content is related to BVHS or is a timely Bay View event or issue. Please submit any photos that correspond to the article as separate files (JPG, PNG or TIF) labeled in order of appearance in the article. Please note the placement of any photos in the article text as needed. Photos must have proper attribution. Please cite any references to other publications as needed.

For more information or to submit your article, please contact us at [newsletter@bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@bayviewhistoricalsociety.org). Thank you! Kevin Petajan, Editor, *Bay View Historian*



## 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 (December 2020):

Joseph Bearman came from Baden, Germany in 1850 and settled in Dunkirk, New York. In 1855 he relocated to Milwaukee where he worked for various companies before opening a tailor shop on Kinnickinnic Avenue in the 1870s. Bearman lived in this Italianate style, cream city brick residence, built in 1874, which still stands at 2593 South Wentworth Avenue.

