

Braidwood City Hall 1885

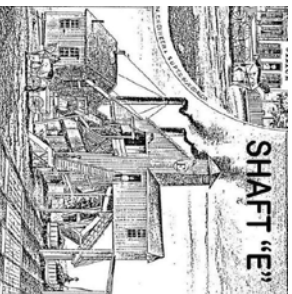
**Braidwood Area
Historical Society**
Braidwood, Braceville, Custer Park,
Godley and Torino

Established 2007

Braidwood Area Historical Society
C/O E. Hibler
330 South Francis Street
Braidwood, Illinois 60408

TO:

OCCUPANT



MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Membership fees in the Braidwood Area Historical Society will help establish a museum site and maintain the collection of historical items, now in our possession, and all others that we may receive from interested donors. Please Choose an Annual Membership option:

Individual membership \$15.00	Family membership \$25.00	Student \$5.00
Patron member \$50.00	Benefactor member \$100.00	Business \$50.00
Corporate member	Individual Lifetime member \$250.00	Memorials*

The BAHS Memorial Fund welcomes contributions of any amount given in the name of a Braidwood area loved one. You may designate these gifts toward a particular use.

Whichever option you choose, be sure to inquire at your workplace for matching contribution plans and remember to include your dues as a charitable deduction on your tax form.

Questions? Please contact one of the BAHS officers:

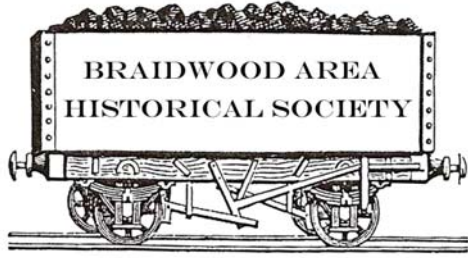
Joan Senko 815-458-2550

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The Braidwood area is rich in history about our lands and the people who helped form our locale.

We have established our Historical Society to record, preserve, protect, display our local history, and to educate our citizens. We are a not-for-profit organization and request membership and donations from citizens and businesses in the Braidwood area and beyond.

We request that you contact us regarding any written documents, pictures, memorabilia, and artifacts from this area that you wish to donate to the society. Identify items with the dates and names on a separate sheet of paper, attached to the item(s). Please provide an explanation of any written documentation regarding the historical (or family) interest of item(s).

Our initial FUNDRAISING GOAL is to establish a MUSEUM BUILDING and display artifacts from the rich history of the area.

Braidwood, Illinois
Established 1865
Incorporated 1873

Those of you who are interested in the local history may be amazed at the importance that COAL played in the development of this community. Braidwood was the center of the coal mining industry in the late 1860's into the 1900's. Prior to the discovery of coal in 1864, the area now known as Braidwood was the site of a few marginal farms. The coal discovery first attracted individuals, then the well-financed companies - the Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Company, and the Eureka Mining Company - which developed the community initially. The names of these companies and their leaders are now carried on the streets and the plat books of the initial subdivisions.

The community's namesake, James Braidwood, was an expert in coal mining, and was involved in the sinking and developing of the first mines. A native of Scotland, he was joined by miners from many countries: Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Poland and Bohemia. Braidwood became known as a "melting pot" of nationalities. The State legislature passed a law in 1872 which enabled small communities of at least 2,000 population to become "cities". The incorporation of Braidwood occurred in 1873. The first Mayor and Aldermen were elected in the same year, led by L. H. Goodrich as Mayor, and Aldermen E. W. Felton, David Paden, William Jack, B. F. Sweet, John Cox Jr., and Benjamin W. Reese.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

* Memorials accepted in memory of a loved one as you request. Amount: _____ In memory of: _____

Send your membership dues and/or donations in care of:
Braidwood Area Historical Society
c/o E. Hibler, 330 South Francis Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408.