



**“Historic Brighton at Founders Plaza” Mural*
by Hans Joseph Geist**

Historical Background by Robin Kring**

Brighton, Colorado was founded by former railroad man, Daniel F. Carmichael, with the filing of the first land plat (south of Bridge St.) on Feb 16, 1881. The area was originally known as Hughes Station, a Denver Pacific Railway depot. Just 21 months after Carmichael's filing, Dewey W. Strong, a Fort Lupton farmer, filed some of the first plats north of Bridge St. on Nov. 10, 1882. The town was incorporated on Jul. 6, 1887. The properties of the two founders converged on this site, now known as “Founders Plaza,” and which once housed Carmichael’s grand Opera House (built 1888). Carmichael’s dream of a town “that would be a credit to the splendid valley of the Platte” and Strong’s community promotion culminated in Brighton becoming known as the “Garden Spot of Northern Colorado.” Brighton’s fertile crops and factory center once made it the largest shipping point of vegetables in Colorado and home of the showcase factory of the Great Western Sugar Co. As the Adams County seat and home of ideal community spirit and diverse culture, Brighton’s eclectic agricultural area continues to shine as a gem of the “Historic Splendid Valley.”

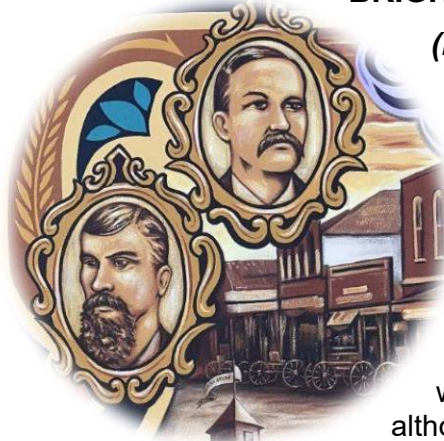
Click a link to read about a mural image:

- [Daniel F. Carmichael, Founder](#)
- [Dewey W. Strong, Founder](#)
- [Late 1800s Division St.](#)
- [Nat Love, Cowboy](#)
- [Opera House](#)
- [Arapaho & Cheyenne](#)
- [Bela M. Hughes, RWY. Pres](#)
- [Railroad, Depot](#)
- [Main St. 1920s](#)
- [Daisy Frink & Creamery](#)
- [Bob Sakata, Agri-Innovator](#)
- [Duke White, Umpire](#)
- [GWS](#)
- [August H. Ehlen, Sugar Beet](#)
- [Kuners](#)
- [Lupe Briseño, Civil Rights](#)
- [Emmett A. Bromley, Senator](#)
- [County Courthouse](#)
- [Armory](#)
- [Ballet Folklórico](#)
- [About the Artist](#)
- [About the Writer](#)
- [Acknowledgements](#)

*The Mural is a project of the Brighton Cultural and Arts Commission, whose mission is to increase arts and culture awareness and promote cultural and scientific opportunities in our community. It has been made possible with funding from the SCFD and Brighton Lodging Tax Grants.

** “Historical Background for Historic Brighton at Founders Plaza Mural” ©Robin Kring 2015-2023 All rights reserved. This document is posted on the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission website (<https://www.brightonculturalarts.org>) with

BRIGHTON FOUNDERS



- (r) [Daniel F. Carmichael](#), (South) **Brighton Subdivision**
(l) [Dewey W. Strong](#), North Brighton Subdivision

DANIEL F. CARMICHAEL (1844-1911) is often called the “Father of Brighton” for his filing of the first Brighton land plat on Feb. 16, 1881 and his major promotion and development contributions to the town. The area was formerly known as Hughes Station, a Denver Pacific Railway depot (and Post Office), named on about June 5, 1868 for its president, Bela M. Hughes, as was the practice of the company. The name was changed to Brighton with Carmichael’s plat filing in 1881, although the name Brighton was already in use as early as 1879 by both the railway station and the Post Office. Carmichael’s wife, Alice, has been credited with choosing the name for the plat after her hometown. However, improved access to genealogy records and research may indicate another story of Brighton’s name. (*Read more about the mystery of Brighton’s name, following the link provided at the end of this section.*)

Carmichael helped lead the Brighton community to prosperity in many leadership roles, beginning as one of the appointed commissioners overseeing Brighton’s 1887 incorporation election. Carmichael was twice elected mayor (Brighton’s 7th mayor in 1893 and 11th mayor in 1898) and served several terms as a member of Board of Trustees. He also helped shape law as a representative in the Colorado Legislature 1889-1891. Additionally, he was instrumental in getting Adams County separated from Arapahoe County and promoting Brighton as its county seat.

Carmichael’s leadership worked toward building community foundations to support the new town. He established and maintained Brighton’s first newspaper *The Brighton Register* and partnered with William G. Lovelace to establish the first bank, the Bank of Brighton. As a member of the Brighton Board of Trade, he worked to secure a sugar factory for Brighton industry. This effort eventually culminated into the Great Western Sugar Company building its showcase factory here. Carmichael founded the town’s first waterworks, building a main water system that included a large wooden water tank, mains, fire hydrants, and other infrastructure. He chaired the committee to help form School District #27 and served on the school board from 1887-91. Carmichael was also a founding director and stockholder in the Elmwood Cemetery Association. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

DEWEY W. STRONG (1848-1923) is often called the founder of North Brighton for his filing of some of the earliest plats north of Bridge St. on Nov. 10, 1882, just 21 months after Carmichael’s filing of the first Brighton subdivision (located south of Bridge St.). Strong, a Fort Lupton farmer, is considered Brighton’s first permanent merchant after moving, on June 6, 1882, a small house from his Weld County farm to a location fronting the railroad, for operating as a general store. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2019-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Stroll through Elmwood* and *The Mystery of Brighton’s Name*



LATE 1800s DIVISION ST. (*Later re-named Main St.*) is depicted looking at the northeast corner of Division St. and Bridge St. The corner building is Samuel M. Stouffer & Co., a general store, also handling lumber and hardware supplies. Stouffer was twice Brighton's mayor from 1894-1896 and 1903-1904. He made news for organizing Brighton relief efforts to feed a Coxey Army group whose boat had capsized on the South Platte, killing two men.

In 1893, Stouffer entered into a partnership with Archie Leffingwell, the husband of his wife's sister. In 1904 after Stouffer retired, Leffingwell established his own business in this same building, under the name Leffingwell Mercantile Company. He built an immense trade and as it grew, Leffingwell acquired the adjacent building to the north (as well as rented a large room at the Opera House for his furniture business). The other buildings, located to the north of the adjacent Stouffer/Leffingwell buildings, housed a butcher shop (later a saloon) and a combination bakery and boarding house. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . .>](#)

©2019-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Stroll through Elmwood* and *A Postcard History of Brighton*

NAT LOVE “DEADWOOD DICK” (1854-1921), *Rodeo*

Competitor/Cowboy, was a legendary cowboy of the old west. His autobiography perpetuated his fame across the country and was entitled, *Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Better Known in the Cattle Country as "Deadwood Dick," by Himself; a True History of Slavery Days, Life on the Great Cattle Ranges and on the Plains of the "Wild and Woolly" West, Based on Facts, and Personal Experiences of the Author.* Brighton historian, the late Albin Wagner, wrote that Love competed several times as “Deadwood Dick” in the Adams County Fair and Rodeo in Brighton. Wagner also wrote that Love drove cattle along the Goodnight-Loving Trail, portions of which crossed present day Adams County. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or

[<Return to Mural Image Links. . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring





OPERA HOUSE (Est. 1888), *Built on this Site by Carmichael*, was once called “one of the finest in the state outside of Denver.” The magnificent two-story building, was for many years the largest structure in Brighton, located on the southwest corner of Division (now Main St.) and Bridge St. The Opera House (sometimes referred to as the Brighton Opera House or Carmichael’s Opera House, and later as the Wire Building) occupied the entire block between Division and 1st St. It is now the site of Founders Plaza at 5 S. Main St. The views from a top tower, that jutted from the roof of the second story, captured a sight of Carmichael’s “splendid valley” as far as the eye could see in every direction. An 1890 Rocky Mountain News article reported, “There is no part of the state, which has been more prosperous, and the appearance is rather that of a New York or

Pennsylvania valley, cultivated for centuries, than that of a region that was merely brown and barren a few years ago [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . . >](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links . . . >](#)

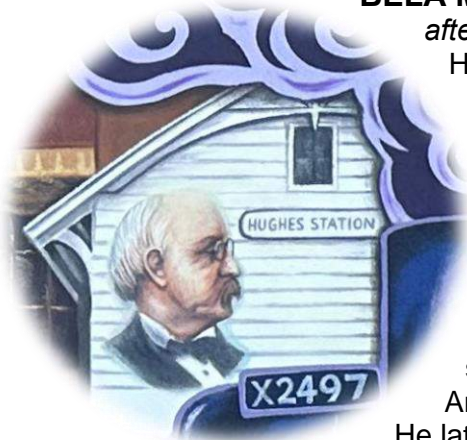
©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*

ARAPAHO AND CHEYENNE TRIBES [pictured, Chief Niwot (Left Hand), c. 1825–1864], *Camped Near South Platte River and Traded with Pioneers*. Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes inhabited this area, with its South Platte River resource, as early as 1800. The buffalo, Native Americans, and beaver trappers followed the trail along the life-sustaining river. Chief Niwot (translated to English as “Chief Left Hand”), chief of the Arapaho, was friendly with the pioneers who had settled south of present-day Brighton. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . . >](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links . . . >](#)



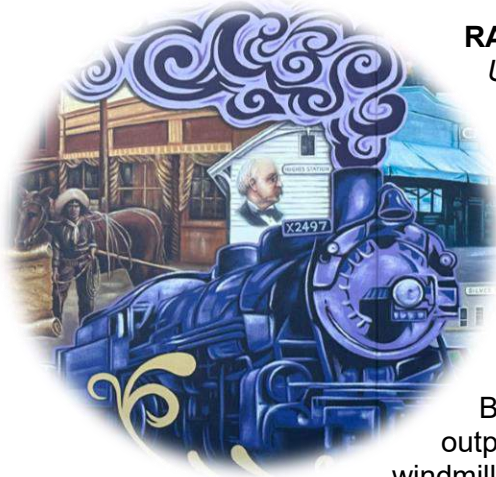
©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*

BELA M. HUGHES (1817-1902), *Area First Named “Hughes Station,” after Denver Pacific RWY Pres*. Brighton was previously known as Hughes Station. The railway station, at the junction of Denver Pacific Railroad (later Union Pacific) and the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroads, was named “Hughes Station” (when grading for Denver Pacific Railway began) on about June 5, 1868. It was named for railway president, Bela M. Hughes, as was the practice of the company. Born in Carlisle, Kentucky, Hughes opened a law practice in Missouri and served in the Missouri State Senate. Hughes came to Colorado, in 1861, as president of the Overland stagecoach line and played an important role in connecting the American West to the rest of the country with stagecoach lines. He later participated in the reorganization of the Denver Pacific Railway Co., of which he was the first president.



The Denver Pacific Railway was formed in 1867 in the Colorado Territory to create a link between Denver and the transcontinental railroad at Cheyenne. The company operated lines in Colorado and present-day southeastern Wyoming in the 1870s until merging with the Kansas Pacific and Union Pacific railroads in 1880. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *The Mystery of Brighton's Name and A Postcard History of Brighton*



RAILROAD REACHES PRESENT-DAY BRIGHTON (1870),

Union Pacific (UP) Locomotive #2497 is shown stopped at Brighton in 1956. "Hughes Station" remained only a

name on the map, at Mile Post #19, until track was completed from Cheyenne to Hughes Station in 1870. On June 7, 1870 the Denver Pacific Railway reached present-day Brighton, completing a 2,000 ft. (railroad track) siding at Hughes. The next day the company reported that the walls of the freight depot were up and that about 1,000 townspeople came to inspect the job. It was located at about one-half block north of present-day

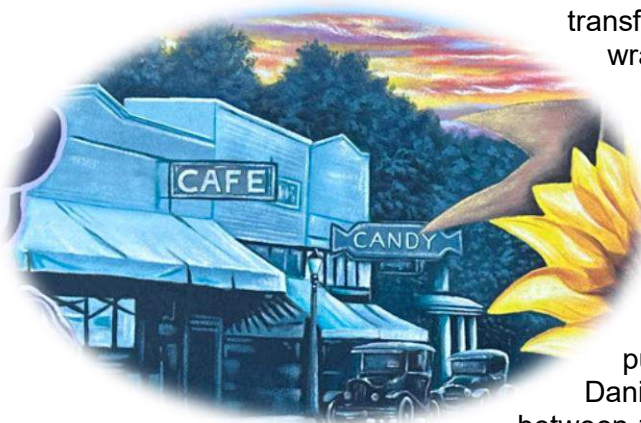
Bridge St., on the east side of the tracks. In 1873, the rail outpost consisted of a wood frame depot, water tower, windmill, a section house, a corral, a stable, and cabins where

section crews stayed. Andrew Bush's house was added at some point between 1870 and 1875. There was little progress in the area until Daniel F. Carmichael laid out and filed a townsite in 1881. With this, and the completion of a new Union Pacific (UP) depot in 1882, the town grew rapidly. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *The Mystery of Brighton's Name and A Postcard History of Brighton*

BRIGHTON'S MAIN STREET (1920s Era) is shown

transformed to the bustling motor-car age, still wrapped in small-town charm. The view is the southwest corner of Main St. and Bridge St., starting with the First National Bank Building at 5 N. Main St. (still standing today). The building was built in 1916 by S.T. Hurst and was occupied by the bank business, as well as several other professional offices (various attorneys and dentist practices and a real estate agency). Hurst and A.A. Filing had purchased the Bank of Brighton business from Daniel Carmichael and his partner William Lovelace between 1882-1883.



The building to the north is the Lincoln Café, who advertised, "Two Places to Eat: Home and Here." Ingram's Luncheonette is next, followed by Sammy's Confectionary with the "Candy" sign. A portion of Dorus and Anna Miller's house residence, with its pillars peeking out, is next.

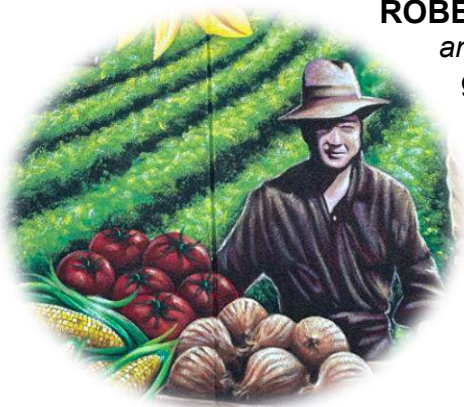
Miller was Brighton's mayor 1904-1905 and served with Daniel F. Carmichael, on the original Board of Trustees for the incorporation of the town of Brighton and had also served as Superintendent of Schools. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*

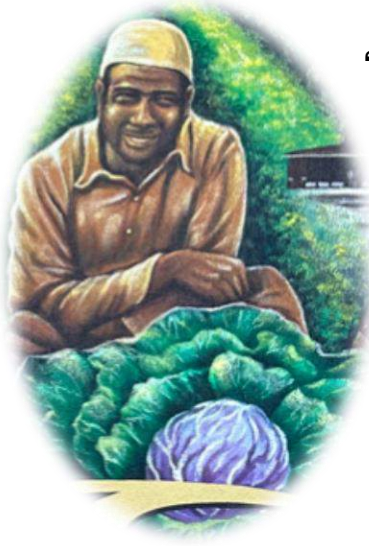


DAISY FRINK (1881-1972), *Creamery Worker and Later Co. pres.*, is shown (c. 1906) when she worked in the Silver State Creamery. It was located on Division St. (now N. Main St.), about 400 ft. north of the UP Boulder-Branch

railroad tracks. "Daisy," born Maguerite Ruth Frink, is holding a Cheese Curd Cutter (or knife) in one hand and a cheese rake over her shoulder. Both were used to immerse into vats of milk during different stages of the cheese making process. Her father, Orello Eugene (O.E.) Frink, first built the business as the Frink Cheese Factory in Brighton in 1899, one of many names and businesses connected to this building and the Frink family. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*



ROBERT "BOB" SAKATA (1926-2022), *Agricultural Innovator and Civic Leader*, has touched the community as a Colorado grower of innovation and heart-felt community harvesting since his arrival in Brighton in 1944. He was always willing to share his agricultural expertise and heart with the community. Some details summarized from his *Metro West* obituary help tell his inspiring story. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)



“DUKE” WHITE (1899-1977), *Baseball Umpire and Youth Advocate*, was a Kuner employee for 59 years. Before Kuners, he was a ball player in various leagues throughout the west and later worked as a professional umpire. Duke was the first man to receive a lifetime membership to the Rocky Mountain Umpires Association and the First Black umpire in the state. His mark on the community was his love for children and his Little League coaching of Brighton’s children. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . >](#)

©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*



GREAT WESTERN SUGAR (GWS) CO.,
Established in 1917 as the GWS

Showcase Factory. Just to the north of Brighton’s historic Main Street, a group of huddled sugar silos stand tall against the sky-blue backdrop of this Colorado plains city. They are part of a sugar-factory complex consisting of several red-brick buildings that together were once billed as “The Great Western Sugar

Company’s Showcase Factory.” Designed with state-of-the-art equipment and beautiful landscaping, the handsomely-crafted visitor’s gate welcomed dignitaries from around the world, including on one memorable day in 1954, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower toured the

factory and met with Local Sugar Beet Growers (like [Louie J. Ehlen](#)). [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2015-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *Brighton's Sugar Sweet Times*; *Colorado "White Gold" — Beet Sugar*, and *A Postcard History of Brighton*



AUGUST H. EHLEN (1896-1952), *GWS Sugar Beet Grower* (image c. 1939), Stories of sprinkled sugar connections to the Brighton Great Western Sugar (GWS) Co. are many, but this image of August H. Ehlen holding a prize sugar beet, is one of the most iconic. The Claus Ehlen farmstead was located in Brighton in Section 25, Township 1 S., with the Fulton Ditch running diagonally across the farm. Claus willed the land south of the Fulton ditch to his son, August H. Ehlen, and the land north to his son, Louie J. Ehlen. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2015-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *Brighton's Sugar Sweet Times*, *Colorado "White Gold" Colorado "White Gold" — Beet Sugar*, and *A Postcard History of Brighton Beet Sugar*, and *A Postcard History of Brighton*.



KUNER PICKLE CO. (1895-1984), *Headquarters and Rocky Mountain Canned-Vegetable Leader* (image c. 1917), The Kuner name would stand in Brighton as a steadfast employer for 89 years. Maximillian "Max" Kuner (1824 -1913) first moved a Kuner pickle and sauerkraut salting station from Greeley to Brighton in 1895 (near the location where the former-GWS sugar silos are today).

He then constructed an additional canning factory in 1907. A sauerkraut brining station was added in 1908, to the west of the salting station (where the women workers wore Dutch-style wooden shoes to protect them from the caustic solutions). After the original pickle plant burned in 1909, Max built another one in 1910. In 1917, the Kuner Pickle Co., transferred its headquarters to Brighton, building a large factory complex at Kuner Rd. and Denver St. and ceasing operations in Denver. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Postcard History of Brighton*



GUADALUPE “LUPE” BRESEÑO (b.1933), *Chicano Civil Rights Leader*, is known for giving a voice to the voiceless.

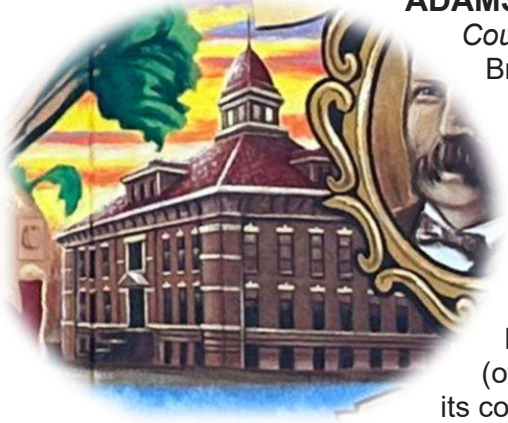
Briseño, a Brighton resident, was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame (CWHF) in 2020, in the category of Activism & Advocacy. CWHF describes her story as “an essential chapter in the history of Colorado, the evolution of Latina feminist leadership, and the struggle for Chicano civil rights.” Briseño is known for leading a 1969 labor strike at a Weld County carnation greenhouse, asking for better working conditions, higher wages, and humane treatment. The CWHF has reported Briseño “demonstrated the strength and power of Latina leadership in Colorado’s Labor Movement and set the stage for the Colorado Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 70s,” giving credit to the event as “laying the foundation for the Chicano Movement in Colorado.” [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . .>](#)



EMMETT A. BROMLEY (1858-1922), *Introduced Bill for New Adams County (1901)*. A prominent Brighton rancher, popularly known as the “Father of Adams County,” for his honor of introducing the bill in the Colorado State Legislature to create Adams County. Voters ratified the amendment on Nov. 15, 1902, officially establishing the new Adams County [named in honor of Colorado’s popular governor Alva A. Adams (1850-1922)]. The amendment created three separate counties from the existing Arapahoe County, including: the City and County of Denver, South Arapahoe County, and Adams County. [<Read more](#)

[at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . .>](#)

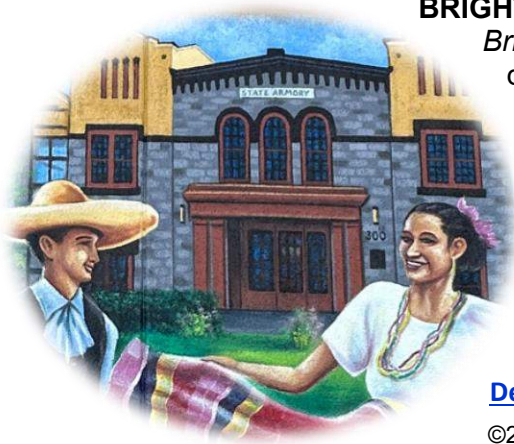
©2019-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Stroll through Elmwood*, *A History Detective’s Tour of Adams County Courthouse*, and *A Postcard History of Brighton*



ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE (b. 1906) *Brighton Elected as County Seat (1904)*. With the act to create Adams County, Brighton was appointed the temporary county seat, and in an election held on Nov. 8, 1904, was elected as the permanent county seat. A grand Adams County Courthouse stood, at the corner of Bridge St. and 4th Ave., with an architectural expression of a combination of Classical Renaissance and Colonial Revival (or as some local historians described it, American Victorian). Its distinctive red-tiled roof and impressive 91-ft. cupola looked out over the town of Brighton, as the proud county seat of the Adams County (officially established on Nov. 15, 1904). The county seat, and its courthouse, assumed both a functional and symbolic role. More than a place of the judicial system and official place to register

and retrieve official documents, the county courthouse was intended to display the pride and resourcefulness of the greater county community. Its manicured, green square was a community meeting place, where residents gathered for summer concerts and box socials, as well as important speeches. One such remembered speech, was given by William Jennings Bryan in 1923, who addressed a large crowd from the top of the courthouse steps.” [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2019-2023 Robin Kring, including excerpts from *A Stroll through Elmwood*, *A History Detective’s Tour of Adams County Courthouse*, and *A Postcard History of Brighton*



BRIGHTON ARMORY (b. 1921), *Former Headquarters of the Brighton Co. K, 157th Infantry Colo. National Guard*, was designed by John James Huddart, the same architect that designed the Adams County Courthouse and 12 Colorado armory buildings (of which only three still stand). The Brighton Armory was one of many new armories built to house national guard units across the state and served, upon its opening in 1922, as the headquarters for Company K, 157th Infantry of the Colorado National Guard. The Guard Unit for Brighton was completed and mustered into service earlier on May 6, 1921. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring



CELEBRATION OF MEXICAN CULTURE THROUGH DANCE OF BALLET FOLKLÓRICO (1970s-Current). Local high-school students perform the colorful and festive dances, traditional to Mexico. Other groups, such as the 1971 Ballet de la Tierra, performed benefit dances at local nursing homes, schools, churches, and community affairs. The classes studied Spanish culture through the dances, the music and the different regional cultures. Costumes were made to correspond to each of the originating regions of Mexico. [<Read more at Brighton History Detective® . . .>](#) or [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . .>](#)

©2023 Robin Kring



“As an artist, I have found inspiration and motivation in preserving the memories and significance of those cultures or places which might have otherwise been forgotten.”

— Hans Joseph Geist



ABOUT THE ARTIST (*Hans Joseph Geist*) Not only is Hans' artistic talent making a Brighton spot more "bright," but his passion for the deep historical research in our town is heart-inspiring.

Hans shares his career and inspiration in the following biography: “Working as a mural artist can be challenging, yet very rewarding. Born and raised in Houma, Louisiana, I have enjoyed the beauty of southern living and have since had the opportunity to spread my artistic wings. I've had the pleasure of traveling and meeting so many wonderful people while experiencing many diverse opportunities in my career. My artwork is my life, and I thank God for the gift.

While in high school I painted my first murals in the gym and also painted signs and billboards for baseball - advertisements, and designed business logos. After graduation in 1994, I joined the Army National Guard, and painted murals of our company mascot in the barracks during boot camp. Upon returning from my training, I started college at Nicholls State University and would work various jobs for income. While attending college I had the privilege of going overseas for an art tour, where I was fascinated by the rich culture of Europe and greatly influenced by the art. In 2000, I received my Bachelor's degree in art and went on to start my own business, really enjoying the pleasure of working full time as an artist.

For several years I did air-brushing, graphic design, and sign work at a studio gallery that I opened in downtown Houma, which also allowed local artists to display their work. In 2003, commissions to paint murals on buildings in downtown Houma would become the start of my mural painting career. Some murals were created for historical purposes, some for recognizing

our veterans, and other murals were painted following Hurricane Ida to bring some much-needed color and hope after a devastating blow to our community.

I have also fabricated sculptures and other public works of art. A few of prestigious works that I have accomplished over the course of my career are logos painted on the Saints training camp in Metairie, and a 300 ft. logo painted on the dome roof of Southern University in Baton Rouge. I have also designed posters for a Broadway show in New York, and several festivals including Shrimp and Petroleum Festival and Voice of the Wetlands in south Louisiana.

As an artist, I have found inspiration and motivation in preserving the memories and significance of those cultures or places which might have otherwise been forgotten. I consider it a true blessing and an honor to have a job that I enjoy, and has enabled me to create works of art for such a special purpose. My work spans across the Gulf coastal area including libraries, museums, restaurants, office buildings, and churches. While doing some residential work, most of my business is either commercial or commissioned artwork.

At 46 years of age, I am married to my soul-mate and appointed 'constructive critic,' Sonni Collinson Geist. Together, we are the proud parents of four beautiful children."

Learn more about Hans and his artwork on Facebook at *Art by Hans Geist*:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064564994759> [<Return to Mural Image Links. . . >](#)



ABOUT THE WRITER (*Robin Kring, historical background author*) is a local historian and an author of 8 books and over 100 magazine articles.

Kring lives with her husband, Michael, in Brighton on the former home site of Brighton's founder, D.F. Carmichael (and later the first Adams County Courthouse and County Jail). She is a local history speaker, museum docent, and a frequent tour guide presenter.

Passionate about Brighton and its local history, Kring has spent recent years sleuthing and writing stories of the town's characters and places of intrigue. She enjoys writing and volunteering for the local museums, has served on the Brighton Historic Preservation Commission (two separate terms), and led the Colorado Preservation, Inc. *Most Endangered Places Team* for documenting and photographing the historic Brighton Great Western Sugar Factory. Additionally, Kring has written for and served as a member of the Brighton Cultural Plan Team and Brighton Cultural Arts Commission.

Loving everything old from books to manners, Kring is fascinated with Victoriana, often writing and giving presentations on the subject.

Kring had a previous career in marketing, specializing in thematic design to enhance organizational goals and metrics. Her books, publications, and script-writing on event marketing have sold worldwide (including Japan, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Australia) to professional event planners representing the likes of: Disneyland Hotel, MGM Grand, Harvard Business School, NBC, and TV Guide. Her *Party Creations Book of Event Design* was used as a textbook supplement in George Washington University's Professional Certificate in Event Management program and California junior colleges. It was nominated for the Esprit Award of the International Special Events Society for "Best Industry Contribution" in 1995.

Never meeting anything she didn't like to write, Kring's portfolio of publications throughout the years also include technical manuals for instrumentation operation and maintenance, "Miss Marple Wanna-Be" fiction, and home-study business courses.

Find more extensive historical background on the subjects depicted in the mural, as well as more Brighton stories of yesteryear, mystery, and intrigue by Kring at [Brighton History Detective®](https://www.clearcreekpub.com/) at <https://www.clearcreekpub.com/>, on the *Authors Blog* tab. [<Return to Mural Image Links...>](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS We would like to acknowledge the following local historians with the deepest gratitude — especially, the late *Maude Linstrom Frandsen (Butler)*; the late *Carl Dorr*, former Editor of *The Blade*; the late *Albin Wagner*; and the late *Pat Reither*. Without them, and their significant contributions to a large body of work they leave behind, it just wouldn't be possible — for contemporary historians like myself and others — to continue discovering, clarifying, and expanding Brighton's story.

Thank you to mural artist, Hans Joseph Geist, for all of your deep historical research into Brighton for the mural, that began even before we met you in the proposal process. The history you have captured, along with your vibrant and colorful expression of telling Brighton's story, has touched our hearts.

Additionally, this historical background summary has been made richer from the contributions of Wilma Rose, President of the Brighton Cultural Arts Commission and members of the Founders Plaza Mural Selection Committee (*Wilma Rose, Gary Wardle, Mark Heidt, Judee Dickinson, Shannon McDowell, Sonja Brown, Laurie Maier, Kathy Wardle, Debbie Gabriel, Steve Simcox, Dolly Garcia, Elena Townsend, Dave Rose, and David Gallegos*) who contributed to subject histories. Thank you to Bill Armstrong, of the City of Brighton Museum (where readers will find wonderful exhibits and historical resources behind the mural stories, and more), <https://www.brightonco.gov/1251/Brighton-City-Museum>).

Sincere appreciation to the members of the Brighton Historic Preservation Commission (*Current and Past Members*) for all you have done to save Brighton's treasured places and our stories highlighted in the mural. A special thank you to Mark Humbert and Allison Lockwood, whose many Brighton Histories and publications, such as *Local Color Magazine, The Banner Press, The Daily Post*, have helped generate interest in our community and keep our history alive. A special acknowledgement to Allison Lockwood, for inspiring us with the winning name and concept nomination for Founders Plaza, the home of "Historic Brighton at Founders Plaza" Mural.

Citations Local historian and author, Robin Kring, has gathered content from extensive research of historical resources, including: U.S. Census and military, and genealogy records, historical newspapers, museum repositories, historical archives and surveys, maps, railroad archives, personal interviews, and the publications, research notes, and photos of Colorado and local historians. Kring has included several excerpts from her own previously-published materials, including: *A Stroll through Elmwood: a graveside (or bedside) tour of a cemetery's most intriguing and not-to-be-forgotten*; *Brighton's "Sugar Sweet Times" — Memories of our Sugar Beet Days and Great Western Sugar Co.*; *A Stroll through Elmwood: a graveside (or bedside) tour of a cemetery's most intriguing and not-to-be-forgotten*; *Colorado's "White Gold" — Beet Sugar*; *The Mystery of Brighton's Name*; *A History Detective's Tour of the Adams County Courthouse*; and *A Postcard History of Brighton*. A complete list of references cited in this document is available from the author by contacting Clear Creek Publishing, Unit 34, 90 N. 4th Ave., Unit 34, Brighton, CO 80601. The author also welcomes any additions or corrections to this published material.

When referencing published materials, Kring has reviewed, verified, clarified, and updated facts (as needed) of originally-cited reference materials, as well as conducted new research and interviews to collaborate and supplement the histories. Any revisions to previous histories, is not made to discredit previous writing, but rather to enhance the material using the benefit of additional years of hindsight, ability to compare published histories, and new or revised information now available due to the increased access of today's improved technology and availability of records. Additionally, Kring has added new material or clarified existing material with newly-discovered sources and/or references published after the original.

The graphic-art depiction of the "Historic Brighton at Founders Plaza" Mural plaque (with image descriptions) is by Hans Joseph Geist (2023). Photos of mural, painted by Hans Joseph Geist, taken by the author, Robin Kring (2023).