



OLD TOWN HALL

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 7

April, 1984

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

The membership is composed of people who feel the above purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

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. BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY :	
. BOARD OF DIRECTORS .	
. Pres. Marieanna Bair	229-6402 .
. V.P. Charles Beach	229-9678 .
. Sec. Clara Healy	229-9367 .
. Treas. Kay Flynn	229-9380 .
. Cor. Sec. Marion Carney	229-4554 .
. <u>Directors</u> .	
. Imm. Past Pres.	
. Mary Messerschmidt	227-7433 .
. Bert Bair	229-6402 .
. Gary Cole	227-6116 .
. Richard Davis	229-8356 .
. Wally Jollitz	229-9832 .

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PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue the following have become members -

Marie Borst, Pat Borst, Susie Braund, Don Carney, Jr., Marion Carney, Frances Clore, Al & Hazel Cole, Don & Lois Cole, Michael Cuthbert, Harry Davis, John & Ethel Gebben, Genevieve Kampe, Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Dick Lehman, Tom & Audrey Leith, Tom & Evelyn Longworth, Larry & Barbara Lorence, Joanne Mars, Bill & Barbara McCririe, Joe & Irene Mike, James & Judy Murray, Alice Newcomb, Wm. Pless, Colt & Dorothy Park, Ina Shannon, Peter & Mary Lou Shaw, Bill & Jane Tomlinson.

CORRECTION - In the last issue of the Newsletter, the phone number of Charles Beach was incorrect. The correct number is above.

If you don't find your name here please use the form you'll find elsewhere in this newsletter. Your membership is essential. A receipt and membership card will be sent you. Contact a board member if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter.

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GENEOLOGIST AT APRIL 10, GENERAL MEETING

Jeanette Rohrabacher, of Howell, will guide us through "The Basics of Geneology - Helping You Get Started."

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SPAGHETTI SUPPER, SAT., MAR 31, 5:30-8 p.m.

Mrs. Rohrabacher was born and raised in Williamston. She is a member of the DAR and has equiped herself to be able to instruct in Lineage Research.

This is the second year the Society will be holding this fund raising event. Again the Masons are donating the use of their building and facilities. We are most grateful to them.

She is the founder of the Howell Geneology Chapter, which meets at Cleary College each month and is open to the public.

The following merchants have donated to the spaghetti supper. Their support makes it possible to contribute almost 100% of ticket sale revenue to the general fund. The Supper committee would encourage you to patronize these local merchants -

Contact Charles Beach, Membership Chairman, 229-9678, if you'd like to attend but prefer to come with someone. Arrangements for transportation can be made.

A & P, Brighton Argus, Bryan's Market, Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Meiers Farm Market, Middletown Market, Nugget, Sefa's, VGs., Wholesale Bakery,

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FOR SALE

Brighton Area Historical Society cards and stationery; Michigan History Magazine issue relating to the Court House restoration and picture books of "Old Brighton Village" are available at general meetings and other Society events.

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO MEET

In recent years representatives of historical societies of the area have been meeting semi-annually. Members of the Board will be attending a spring workshop April 12, 7:30, hosted by the Wixom Historical Society.

Following a tour of the historical Wixom-Wire House, we'll go to the Wixom City Hall to hear a speaker on grants and an opportunity to exchange ideas. All members invited. Contact Marion Carney, 229-4554, if you wish to attend.

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MAY 8, GENERAL MEETING

A visit to the U. of M. Bentley Historical Library, which serves as a "collective memory of the State of Michigan" is planned.

The Library serves as a repository not only for the famous, formative institutions and landmark events, but for the "thoughts, hopes, dreams, accomplishments and disappointments...of the citizens of the state. These range from settlers, farmers, and lumbermen of the 19th century to factory workers, housewives, and students of the present century," says Library Director Francis X. Blouin.

The reference archivist, Nancy Bartlett, will provide a general idea of methods for researching local architectural history.

The entire membership is invited and also the general public. A map will be in the next issue of the newsletter. At present it is planned to meet in Brighton to carpool and caravan to the Library.

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NON-PROFIT STATUS

It shouldn't be long now. Local attorney, Dale Cooper, and the Society Board are in the final stages of completing the paperwork toward becoming a federally recognized non-profit organization. It has been a long process but hopefully the next issue of this newsletter will contain a notice of completion of this procedure.

Once the Society achieves that status several cost saving procedure can go into effect. Not the least of which will be the mailing of this newsletter.

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THE DEDICATION OF THE historic marker for ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH is planned for Sunday, May 20, 11:15 a.m. All Society members are invited to attend.

FLEA MARKET THIS SPRING

Chuck Beach and Wally Jollitz, chairmen of this activity, have set June 2, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot, across from the Post Office, for the annual flea market.

This event cannot be successful without support from the community. Needed will be items you wish to donate and help with the sale. If you're not sure of an item, call them and they'll tell you if they can use it. If you have an item too large to handle they'll arrange for pick up. Spaces will be available to rent to those who have their own items they wish to sell.

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BAKE SALE

A chairman for this event is needed, and, of course, lots of baked items. This will be held June 2, (same as the flea market) at the Farmer's Market. If you're not able to be active in the Society's events, this is one way you can help. Donation of lots of baked items will be needed. This project can help with the Society's expenses.

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OUR COPIER NEEDS REPAIR

Is there someone out there who can fix a Savin 220 copier? It was donated to the Society. Investigation has revealed it will cost \$50-75 just to have a repair person from that company come to look at it to tell us what repair is needed.

If there is someone who could tell us what is wrong then we feel the repair expense could be reduced quite a bit. Or does someone have a Manual for this machine? Since this newsletter costs a minimum of .12¢ to print, having our own copier in operation can reduce this expense.

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SOCIETY NEEDS A FILE CABINET

The Society is acquiring historical and informational materials which need to be filed and stored for quick reference. A file cabinet would be a great help. If you could help with this please contact a board member. The Board would prefer to use Society funds for historic preservation and restoration rather than buy office equipment.

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COFFEE MAKER ANYONE???? A 25-30 cuper would be a great addition to the cupboard. Contact Refreshment Chairman, Ruth Ann Cole, 227-6116, or any board member, if you can make this donation.

HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!

BILL PLESS' 21st BIRTHDAY

(t seems this will be a regular column)
A Newsletter Chairman is needed to help with the compiling, printing and mailing of this newsletter. As one of the most valuable means of communication to the residents of the Brighton Area it is very important regular issues be distributed.

Can you type, fold, staple, stamp, etc?
Then you can help with this activity.

Marion Carney volunteered for the position of Corresponding Secretary. Directors Cole and Beach are now also Finance Chairman and Membership Chairman, respectively. Still needed are a Publicity Chairman and Historic Sites Chairman.

Job descriptions of these positions have been prepared. Contact Pres. Bair, 229-6402, if you'd like more information.

If this organization is to be a responsible, active entity, making a contribution to the life of the community, support of caring area citizens is needed. The Board members cannot be held responsible for the entire kings of this Society.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE MARCH 13, GENERAL MEETING - Beverly LaBelle, member Livingston County Historical Advisory Commission, showed colorful slides and spoke of the restoration of our County Courthouse.

Caring citizens have made it possible for us to have an historic courthouse of which we can all be proud. Contact the courthouse for a guided tour.

To help celebrate his 88th year, the Society had the privilege of hosting an open house February 29, at the Chamber of Commerce Building.

The evening was highlighted by the presentation of a framed proclamation of Bill Pless Week by the Brighton City Council. Bill was also presented with other gifts and the best wishes of a host of friends.

The Society is most appreciative of the support of the Chamber of Commerce and others who helped make this such a happy event. We hope to help you celebrate your 22nd, Bill.

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WHY DOES THE SOCIETY NEED SO MUCH MONEY?

Why is the Society continually working to raise funds? - to fulfill its purposes and goals. A few of which are:

a. The Old Town Hall is to be restored to become a heritage center for the community. (including replacing the bell and its tower.)

b. The Lyons School in Brighton Township is to be restored to its original one room school classification.

c. Genoa Township has sites of historic significance which need to be restored and marked.

d. Publications regarding the history of this area need to be prepared.

Our readers, who are interested in the history of the Brighton Area, can undoubtedly add to this incomplete listing.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- Meeting Programs
- Interior decoration
- Help with special events
- Board member
- Video taping
- Photography
- Geneology
- Restoration
- Cleaning
- Other _____
- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Research
- Membership
- Fund raising
- Bake sale
- Hospitality
- Oral History

Dues: \$8.00 per couple
\$5.00 per individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
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The history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church dates from the 1830s when the Rev. Wm. A. Clark, D.D., rector of All Saints Church of New York City, journeyed to the "West" and visited this part of the territory of Michigan. Being pleased with the area, he took up land in Brighton township and moved his family here in 1837. He immediately began holding church services, the first one in his orchard; the first regular Protestant religious services held in this area.

In what is now the City of Brighton, he set aside land to be used as a burying ground, one acre of which was reserved as the site for a church. Dr. Clark died in September, 1841, at 55, and with his wife, Jacintha, is buried in the village cemetery. Stones marking their grave still stand on the east side of the cemetery. William A. Clark, Jr., a son, granted, with a warranty deed, the burying ground to a group of prominent citizens to become the village cemetery. In March, 1880, this son and his wife deeded the acre reserved for a church to the Church association of Michigan for "one cent and other good and valuable considerations."

Nearly forty years after the death of Dr. Clark, Brighton Episcopalians began a church building. The will of Chloe Clark, a daughter, directed her lands be sold and the proceeds be used in the construction of a Protestant Episcopal Church in Brighton; to be a memorial to her father and sister Mary. Mrs. George English, formerly Sophia Fonda of Fonda Lake, was a major supporter of this effort. She obtained \$1,000 from friends in New York, a communion service, an organ, a bible and altar hanging which had been used in Trinity Church, New York City. At her request the church was called St. Paul's. Her sister gave the altar cross and the flower vases. The original altar was a specific memorial to Chloe and Mary Clark. The fine rose window was given by Bishop Harris.

Patterned after a little chapel in England, the building was erected by a local contractor, James Collett. The cornerstone was laid in May, 1880, by Bishop Harris in the presence of Rev. Rufus W. Clark. The first service, June 12, 1881, was conducted by the Rev. John A. Clark, a son of Dr. Clark. Consecration was by Bishop Harris in August, 1881.

This church has been through many troubled periods, having been closed for a ten year period in the 1930s. During those years church records were stored in the home of Dr. F. M. Blatchford. When that home was completely destroyed by fire, records from 1886 to 1932 were lost. However, the church does have the names of 20 vicars and Rectors who served following the Rev. Wm. A. Clark.

Located by the Brighton Mill Pond, this active congregation continues in its efforts to glorify God by serving 'all sorts and conditions of men.'

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