



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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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V.P.	Charles Beach	229-9678
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	Janice Beach	229-9678
	Gary Cole	227-6116
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GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 14, 1984, 7:30 p.m.

by the beginning of the 19th century, Boston and Philadelphia were well on their way to becoming permanent settlements. DeWitt Clinton's dream of fully developing New York City rested on the construction of an inland waterway to the Northwest Territories. The fascinating story of his pursuit of that dream will be the program at the next General Meeting at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, Brighton.

The audio/visual program will make clear the direct effect of Clinton's efforts on the Territory of Michigan.

Laurie Chall, our speaker, moved to the area from Livonia six years ago. Since then she's earned a degree in History from Oakland University and plans to return for a Master's beginning in December.

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General Meetings, open to the public, are held the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, unless other plans are announced.

Board meetings are the second Thursday, same place. Society members are always welcome.

Or contact board members with your comments.

EDITORIAL

To accomplish the purpose of this Society, there is the usual core of hard working, dedicated, conscientious members who accept the responsibility of moving along toward realizing these goals.

Longtime residents of Genoa and Brighton Townships and the City of Brighton are beginning to realize the Society cannot accomplish this purpose without their help.

Many of them are becoming aware of the fact they have a responsibility also; that is to record what they remember of the history of the Brighton Area. What happened to them personally? How living here affected them? (Is anyone recording what's happened in the area in the last 25 years?)

This is something each can do to enable our grandchildren to know how their forebears existed. Their lives will be enriched as they become aware of those who preceded them. Only when we know from where we've come can we then determine where we're going.

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PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue the following have paid 1984 dues:

Ben & Kathleen Bidwell, Ula Davis, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Clifton Heller, Don & Pat Lueker, George & Violet Moyer, James & Phyliss Siford. WELCOME !!!!

The Society needs your support as a member. If you'd like to help with its goals please use the form you'll find elsewhere in this newsletter. Your membership is essential. A receipt and membership card will be sent. Contact a board member if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter.

THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!

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

Geroge & Violet Moyer of Colorado for the pictures of Bert Miller, Main Street, and the High School c. 1943.

Still needed are an "Historic Sites" chairperson, a "Newsletter" Chairperson and a "Publicity" Chairperson.

Tom Leith for a picture of the Brighton Band c. 1939.

Is there someone who can develop a cross stitch kit of a local site which can be sold? If help is needed to secure the picture contact a board member.

Norma & Chuck Pless, Bruce Owens, Gary Cole, Dick Davis, Tom Lorence, Bert & Marieanna Bair for working on the Lyons School July 21.

Domino's Pizza for the lunch for the workers at the school.

The crochetafghan kit donated to us as a fund raiser is still in the form of skeins of yarn. It needs to be completed in order for us to then accept donations and have a raffle for the lucky winner.

to those who help with the mailing of the newsletter.

For any of the above, please contact a board member.

Brighton State Bank for the printing of this newsletter. (A big lift for our treasury.)

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LYONS SCHOOL

CERAMIC TILES TO BE FOR SALE

Built in a style similar to many (one recommended by our first governor, Stevens T. Mason) the building, donated by Brighton Township, now needs to be restored to its original design. To make it into a place where one can learn of the educational process of the past, will take a lot of work. The committee is checking into the necessary code requirements and will be acquiring a historical site designation. One of the first steps will be the painting of the outside.

A 6" ceramic tile with a picture of the Old Town Hall will be available soon. Only 300 of these will be made. To be sold at \$6.00 these will soon become collectors' items. It is planned to develop a series of these for the future. The Society is acquiring more responsibility continually. This will be one more source of income.

The first work day was Saturday, July 21. Lots of paint was scraped and some yard work done. There will be many more days like this necessary to get the outside work finished before winter.

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SEEKING DESCENDANTS OF EARLY LOCAL RESIDENTS

Each Saturday, 9-1 p.m., someone will be there to direct the work. Bring paint scrapers, hammers and ladders if possible.

We appreciate those who have taken time to give us addresses of relatives or descendants of early residents of the area. The Newsletter will be sent them. It is hoped they will find it of interest. Our mailing list can be expanded. Contact a board member with names and addresses to be sure all are included.

Take Spencer Rd., N.E. to Van Amberg, turn left, N., to Buno, turn right, E., to the school.

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INDIAN ARTIFACTS SURVEY

Domino's Pizza will be donated and a beverage provided.

Mark C. Branstner, (517) 349-4618, 2305 Knob Hill #16, Okemos, Mi. 48864, is beginning a preliminary archaeological survey of the County. He wishes to communicate with anyone who has recovered Indian arrowheads or other artifacts from their property in the County, especially collectors or farmers that still have some old family collections of such materials. His resea would be confidential and limited to photographing collections and trying to map their origin, to include this information to the archaeological site files at Michigan History Division.

If a Saturday is impossible for you, contact Gary Cole, 227-6116, or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, and tell them when you can come.

* to Brighton Chamber of Commerce for copying Minutes, Bylaws, Job Descriptions, Agenda, etc.

A committee has been working on some necessary changes in the Society's Bylaws. After approval by the Board, a first reading will take place at the Tuesday, August 11, General Meeting at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, 7:30. A final vote by the membership will take place at the Tuesday, September 11, General Meeting.

Members wishing a copy of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 481, or pick up a copy at the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, 131 Hyne, open 9-5 (closed 12-1) Monday thru' Friday.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE JULY 10 MEETING

An old fashioned summer pot luck picnic, with watermelon and lemonade plus lots of friendly conversation with people with the same interests, concluded with a tour of the Lyons School. Norma Pless and Herb Warner gave short sketches of their memories of school days spent at this red country school house.

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SOCIETY HISTORICAL TRIP COMING UP

September 23/24, 1984, the Society is sponsoring a trip to Elora, Ontario. As part of the package tour the Society will receive a 'commission'. You can spend two days with others interested in history; visit a historical area; learn something of the Canadian version of early differences of opinions between our countries; and make a contribution to the Society.

See enclosed insert for more information.

Gary Cole, Director, and Ruth Ann (Potts) past Secretary of the Society were both born and raised in the Brighton Area, as are their two daughters.

Both feel it is important to preserve and record this area's past and prove it by continuing to contribute time and energy to the organization of which they are charter members. In fact Gary has been on the Board since its creation.

Gary works for General Motors Proving Ground, Fleet Operations, and Ruth Ann for Handleman's.

Their interests include several sports and Gary is a retired member of the Brighton Fire Department. He is presently an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor.

Their mutual concern and commitment to the community is evident in their continued dedication to the Society and its goals. More Garys and Ruth Anns are needed.

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GREEN OAK DAY TOUR

Saturday, August 11, 12-4 p.m., the Green Oak Township Historical Society will be conducting its second annual Home Tour. A Blacksmith will be in action, the Museum will be open, the Don Read farm will have a farm equipment and horse exhibit, the restored Rushton Mill will be in operation, the Bingham house and five other homes will be open to tour.

Tickets are \$3.00 and are available at any of the homes or the Museum, 6440 Kensington Rd.

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
- Genealogy
- Restoration
- Cleaning
- Other work I'd be willing to do _____
- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Research
- Membership
- Fund Raising
- Bake Sale
- Hospitality
- Oral History

Dues: \$8.00 per couple
5.00 per individual
25.00 business/professional
25.00 patron
Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

The scene is Antwerp, Belgium, the event is the 100 meter run in the Olympic Games, the year is 1920. The gold medal winner of this event is Charles William Paddock of Brighton, Michigan, U.S.A. He has won by tying the world record of 10.8 seconds. The headlines proclaim him as the "World's Fastest Human."

The 1924 Olympics in Paris, again found Charlie running that same race only to be defeated by .2 of a second by Harold Abrahams of Great Britain. The 1981 Movie of the Year, "Chariots of Fire", depicts the story of the only person faster on his feet than Charles W. Paddock.

Charlie's roots were deep in the Brighton Area. His grandfather, Hiram "Hi" Paddock was 12 years old in 1836 when he came (with one brother and five sisters) from near Rochester, N. Y., with his parents, George and Lydia (Goodrich) Paddock. They settled on a farm located north of the Brighton City limits on Grand River Road. An 8th generation American, Hi's ancestors had lived in several eastern states. Some of his predecessors had served in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Now resting in the Village Cemetery in Brighton, George and Lydia had seven grandsons and five grandsons-in-law who served in the Civil War, two of which were killed in the conflict.

On the frontier in Michigan, Hi's school days ended; his teen years spent helping clear the farm which later became his. He grew into a strong, young man, rough and ready for anything. Somewhere in the Paddock genes was a dominant characteristic that made them particularly agile on their feet. It was said Hi always seemed to be walking on his toes. From French-Canadian lumberjacks who came from the Michigan northwoods to work in the harvest season, it is reputed he learned how to "fight with his feet." While it was said he didn't pick fights, his reputation encouraged some to try to get the best of Hi Paddock.

One might say Charles, the Olympics runner, was a 'chip off the old block' of Grandpa Hi. He was very quick on his feet, willing to work hard and try to be the best. The early 1920s also saw Charlie engaged in a short career in the silent movies. As an officer in the airforce in World War II, he was killed in an airplane crash in Sitka, Alaska.

Are there any descendants of George and Lydia still in Brighton? Janice (Pitkin) Beach (whose mother, Loneita Lois (Paddock) Pitkin was a cousin of Charlie) makes her home with her husband, Charles, and their daughter just northeast of Brighton. Both are charter members and are on the board of the Brighton Area Historical Society. (Thanks to Janice and to Bill Pless for the assimilation of the facts related above.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, Mi. 48116