



Vol II
37

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

Issue No. 10

July, 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.

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
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. Imm. Past Pres. -		
. Mary Messerschmidt		227-7433
. Bert Bair		229-6402
. Janice Beach		229-9678
. Gary Cole		227-6116
. Richard Davis		229-8356
. Wally Jollitz		229-9832

PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue, 1984 dues have been received from the following:

Elizabeth Bindenagel, John & Marilyn Homan. We welcome the Brighton State Bank and Roland and Jane Owens as sustaining members.

If you'd like to join us in our efforts 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.

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE JUNE 5 MEETING

Barbara Beckstrom, who specializes in guiding tour groups on trips to areas of historic interest, presented a slide presentation of several tour possibilities. Some were one day, overnights and longer.

When a possible tour is planned, you'll be given the opportunity to come along.

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Printing of this newsletter compliments of the Brighton State Bank. (Very much appreciated.)

EDITORIAL

It is assumed those who receive this newsletter find the Brighton history articles on the back page of interest.

Area churches have been featured thus far. (Probably because your editor has found the material most readily available.) The history of the Brighton Area includes many kinds of organizations, establishments, activities, etc.

It is hoped those who receive this newsletter will support our efforts and feel welcome to present informative material on area schools, groceries, bakeries, blacksmiths, taverns, eateries, hotels, theatres, repair shops, dry good stores, banks, publishers, farmers, industries, personalities, musical groups, athletic groups.....

Each person who reads this can list at least 10 more categories about which to write; each of which would make interesting reading and add to the realization that others have been down this road before.

(Ed. M. Bair)

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JULY 10, GENERAL MEETING

A summer country picnic is planned! It will be held at the Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd. (Take Spencer Rd. N.E. to Van Amberg, turn left, N., to Buno, turn right, E., to the school.)

The picnic will start at 6:30. Bring your table service, a dish to pass and meat to grill. A table and chairs or blanket on which to sit will also be necessary. The Society will furnish the beverage, watermelon and grills.

At 7:30, a short business meeting will be held and we'll tour the school, a recent gift from Brighton Township.

General Meetings are held each second Tuesday. Public is invited.

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

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

AND DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING
for their generous donations to the
Brighton Area Historical Society.

James Glenn	File Cabinet
Erv & Dorothy Bandkau	Coffee Maker
Joanne Mars	Glass Bowl and Silver Ford and Spoon
Betty Herbst	Afghan Kit
Larry & Barb Lorence	School Desk
Irma Truance	Brighton Centennial Flag
Elva Singer	Organ (Made by Eric Singer)
Dale Cooper	Time and effort to acquire Tax I.D.
Brighton State Bank	Printing of this newsletter

CASH DONATIONS:

Ore Creek Mill Chapter of Questers
Elizabeth Bindenagel of South Dakota
Dave Lehman of Brighton.
Andrew & Lila Robertson of Brighton toward
a memorial in the memory of Persis Cook.
(by Marion Carney)

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BAKE SALE

Many thanks to all you gals who donated
goodies for our bake sale June 16. It was
a beautiful day and everything was sold.

We made a profit of \$131.25. Thanks to Jane
Tomlinson (co-chairman), to Irma Truance
and Kay Flynn for working that day. And a
special thanks to all of these ladies for
making so many phone calls. Marion Carney,
Irene Mike, Bonnie Corrigan, Ethel Gebben,
Mary Messerschmidt, Shirley Knight and
Kay Flynn. We couldn't have done it
without you.

(by Janice Beach, Chrmn.)

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SEEKING DESCENDANTS OF EARLY LOCAL RESIDENTS

Warner, Gitre, Bauer, Morgan, Cameron,
Dorr, buck, Conrad. We'd like to send the
newsletter to relatives or descendants of
the aforementioned people. It is hoped they
would find it of interest.

This writer doesn't know the names of all
the early settlers. Contact a board member
with names and/or addresses to be sure
all are included.

There has been some response to the request
for suggestions to determine the next site
in the Brighton Area for a historic marker
designation. How about you and your ideas
as to which site should have the next mar-
ker? It seems we really need someone to
volunteer to be an "Historic Sites" chairman
to organize and coordinate these suggestions.

In regard to the historic tour our Society
could possible sponsor, (this could also
help raise funds for the Society) a "Tour
Chairman" would be needed.

Several months 'lead time' are necessary.
If you can participate in that position
let a board member know.

We're still struggling to get this news-
letter together each month. A "Newsletter"
Chairman would be welcomed with open arms
by the Society. Also a "Publicity" Chair-
man. Job descriptions are available so you
have an idea of what can be done.

It is certain there is someone in the Area
who can develop a cross stitch kit of a
local site which we can sell.

...and the ceramic tile project with pictures
of local sites is also awaiting someone to
nurture it along.

The crochet afghan kit which was donated
to us, will think no one wants it. It needs
to be completed in order for us to then
accept donations and select someone to
receive it.

For any of the above, please contact a
board member. These three items would add
to the Society's treasury.

We have a large mailing list. The Board
has decided to use mailing labels for our
newsletter. The volunteers who do the
addressing will welcome that change.

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FOR SALE

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

Momentum is developing to reconstruct the bell tower which was originally on the top of the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, Brighton. An architect must be contacted, plans drawn, contractor acquired and funds raised to pay for all of this. Admittedly this will be a large project for the Society to tackle. It is felt residents of the area will support this endeavor. Those interested in helping with this project will be most welcome.

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LYONS SCHOOL

The Brighton Township Board has expressed its confidence in the Society in a very concrete manner. A deed to the Lyons School has been presented to the Society. The restoration of the building to its original one-room rural school house designation is the aim. Brighton Township Board members have demonstrated an encouraging display of credence in the Society's ability to accomplish this aim. Be assured this trust will not be taken lightly.

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FLEA MARKET

The June 2 Flea Market brought in \$77.50. Non-opening of the Farmer's Market in Brighton that day accounted for a smaller number of customers than anticipated. Many thanks to those who contributed items and to the Chamber of Commerce for the use of the parking lot.

Chairman Wally Jollitz is planning to conduct another Flea Market in late September. Everyone can start putting aside their donations.

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Mary Messerschmidt, immediate past president, came to Brighton in 1978, from Livonia. She and husband Fred are parents of three children and grandparents to one. They enjoy cross country skiing, wilderness camping and canoeing.

She brings a varied background of professional and volunteer abilities to the area and especially to the Society.

A paraprofessional educator to high school Seniors in vocational training, she is also active in organizations for children with learning disabilities. For 15 years she was a volunteer advocate, through the school system, for the handicapped.

Formerly the owner of a music store and a former real estate associate, she is also capable of teaching the Greek language. Her fluency in Greek stems from her parents' origins in Greece. It is a desire of Mary's to visit her parents' homestead in the Athens and Sparta area.

Mary has been the instigator and 'never-give-upper' of the Brighton Area Historical Society. Her inspiration and determination has enabled the organization to become a viable, active entity in the community.

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OUR NON-PROFIT STATUS

The I.R.S. ID # for the Society has arrived. Now we'll try to complete requirements to obtain the non-profit status necessary for our Society to function properly. Acquisition of a non-profit mailing permit requires this designation.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interior decoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video taping | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

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

BRIGHTON WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Methodist in doctrine, but opposed to the Episcopal form of government, and being opposed to slavery, as was the 'Wesleyan' church in England, this group of Christians acquired the name Wesleyan Methodist. The roots of Wesleyan Methodism in the area go back to 1842 with the organization of the Milford circuit. Records indicate this was one of the very first circuits organized in the U.S. As many as 20 preaching points were included in this circuit. The Kensington, Pleasant Valley and Brighton churches were eventually formed from this group.

Several members of the Pleasant Valley Church, which had a church building on the corner of Pleasant Valley Road near Jacoby Road, lived in and near Brighton. For more convenient worship they invited Rev. John C. Martin to establish a new W.M. appointment. The Appleton Hall on Grand River was their first meeting house in the town. It was furnished with plank seats and a dry good box was used as a pulpit. Several members from the Pleasant Valley Church transferred to the Brighton Church.

When more space for worship was needed the Presbyterian society permitted the W.M. to worship in their church. With its legal organization June 30, 1874, plans were immediately made for the building of the W. M. Church in the town. Mr. E. G. McPherson, desiring to encourage plans for the building, gave two lots on the corner of Washington and Fourth Streets and a contribution of \$100. Other members gave liberally to the building fund so that dedication took place January 30, 1875, with Rev. L. N. Stratton, editor of the 'American Wesleyan', officiating. The first parsonage was built c. 1885. During the first five years the pastors served the Pleasant Valley Church also. In 1899-1901, Rev. S. A. Manwell served the congregation. Following his retirement, he built a house, with lumber salvaged from the Pleasant Valley W. M. Church, on U.S. 16 (Grand River).

Ernest Crippen and a lady referred to as Grandma Euler, bought and donated the church bell in 1885. Each paid one half the cost of \$300. In 1908, the first addition was built, which included the annex and the pulpit alcove. A paneled ceiling was made possible in 1917 through the generosity of the Fred Hyne, Srs. and the Erwin Hynes. Another addition, 1948-49, was built to provide more Bible study space. A new heating facility, new pulpit and other furniture was donated by members of the congregation at that time also.

Each new minister brought Christian education and leadership to the members of this congregation. Today's minister and congregation continue with their long tradition of evangelism and stewardship.

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