BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MT. 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.

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, bakers, blacksmiths, taverns, eateries, hotels, theatres, repair shops, dry goods 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)

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.

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 Backstrom, 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, overnighters and longer.

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

Printing of this newsletter compliments of the Brighton State Bank. (Very much appreciated.)
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 Bindenagle of South Dakota
Dave Lehman of Brighton.
Andrew & Lila Robertson of Brighton toward a memorial in the memory of Persis Cook. (by Marion Carney)

BAKE SALE
Say 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.)

SEEKING DESCENDANTS OF EARLY LOCAL RESIDENTS
Warner, Cite, 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 marker? 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 possibly 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 newsletter together each month. A "Newsletter" Chairman would be welcomed with open arms by the Society. Also a "Publicity" Chairman. 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 nurse 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.

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.

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.

FLEA MARKET

The June 2 Flea Market brought in $77.50. The 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.

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

( ) Meeting Programs  ( ) Photograph  ( ) Newsletter  ( ) Fund Raising
( ) Interior decoration  ( ) Genealogy  ( ) Publicity  ( ) Bake Sale
( ) Help with special events  ( ) Restoration  ( ) Research  ( ) Hospitality
( ) Board member  ( ) Cleaning  ( ) Membership  ( ) Oral History
( ) Video taping  ( ) 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
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, Sr.s 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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